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ABSTRACT

This set of papers presented to the General Research Libraries Division of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) during its 47th annual conference (1981) includes: "The Effect of the Introduction of Computers on Library and Research Staff," by Gilbert Gude; "Libraries as Information Service Agencies (IVS)," by Franz Georg Kaltwasser; "How the Parliamentary On-Line Information System at Westminster was Planned," by Dermot Englefield; "The Swedish Parliamentary Library and the Official Government Publications," by Lennart Gronberg; "Legal Deposit Legislation in the German Democratic Republic," by Helmut Lohse; "The Role of National Libraries in Latin America: The Example of the Biblioteca Nacional of Venezuela," by Yola Medina McLeod; and "Role of the State Lenin Library of the USSR in the Realization of the UAP Programme in the USSR," by N. S. Kartashov. (JL)

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General Research Libraries Division

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IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: General Research Libraries

SECTION: Parliamentary Libraries

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The Effect of the Introduction of Computers on Library and Research Staff

by
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Director, Congressional Research Service, Washington, USA

The Effect of the Introduction of Computers on Library and Research Staff

by

Gilbert Gude, Director, Congressional Research Service
with the collaboration of
Frederick J. Rosenthal, Assistant Chief, Library Services Division, CRS

This paper describes the conversion of the Congressional Research Service's current awareness service from a manual to an automated mode, emphasizing the effects of automation upon staff and clientele. Although initially the conversion was attended by various staff and equipment problems, full system implementation was highly successful. Automation produced no savings in either time or staff; rather the contrary. However, the true benefits of automation appear as a multiplicity of previously unobtainable services and products of far-ranging utility to system users.

For several decades, the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress has pioneered in the application of automation to policy research and information support operations in a legislative research environment. Word processing machines, automated management information systems, facsimile transmission devices, ultra-modern photocopying equipment--these are just a few of the applications of automation we have introduced to facilitate as well as strengthen our work for the Congress. Some automated procedures are still in various stages of development; others are in place and fully operational. One of these--the bibliographic current awareness service--will be described in detail, best illustrates the effect of the introduction of computers on library and research staff; of all CRS experiences with automated systems to date this illustration would be most instructive to an information system institution such as a parliamentary library or parliamentary research service which is just beginning to explore the automation area. The bibliographic current awareness system had

actually been fully implemented prior to the time I became Director of CRS, so John Rosenthal, who is presently Assistant Chief of the CRS Library Services Division has related the events surrounding the introduction of this system.

The Library Services Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has for many decades a major responsibility to provide the research staff of CRS with a bibliographic current awareness service, the purpose of which is to alert the analysts and researchers to writings on current affairs that would be of present or potential interest to them in their work for the Congress.

Up until the late 1960s this current awareness service was carried out entirely in a manual mode. A staff of five professional librarians--we call them bibliographers--performed this function with the support of a clerical staff of three. Each bibliographer was required to have a Master's degree in Library Science as well as a second Master's degree in the social or the applied physical sciences, and their subject specialties paralleled the subject assignments of the CRS research divisions. These bibliographers scanned hundreds of articles on a daily basis from the five most important newspapers, from the general magazine literature, specialized and scholarly journals, government publications, interest group publications, pamphlets, and so on; in short, everything except books. All of this raw material for research was classified according to a modified Library of Congress classification schedule and filed in well over a hundred vertical file cabinets for subsequent use by the CRS research staff.

From this mass of current literature, the bibliographers selected what they judged to be the most important items from the standpoint of the researchers' needs (representing approximately 17 to 20 percent of the total materials) and then prepared complete bibliographic citations for each item. Typically, a citation would include author, title, name of publication, volume, date, and pagination. Brief annotations were written to indicate contents of the article and simple subject headings were provided. The citations were written on 3 x 5" aniline mats and the state of the technology then available to us limited their duplication to a maximum possible total of 30 copies.

Sets of these cards were then filed in a divided author/title and subject catalog for a retention period of five years, with each year separately filed, so that at the end of a calendar year the earliest year's contents could be discarded to make room for the next year's citation cards. This weeding process was dictated by space limitations; however, it was felt that with the research emphasis on current affairs a four-to-five year holding of citations would be quite adequate for our needs. A very small list of subject headings provided access to the subject catalog and if a researcher was unable to locate citations corresponding to his/her research needs, a bibliographer was always on hand to provide personal service. This was a fairly commonplace occurrence during the late 1950s and early 1960s when the research staff numbered between 100 and 140 individuals and bibliographers and researchers worked in rather close physical proximity.

The tailor-made, highly individualized information support service provided by the librarians was always greatly appreciated and the good-natured banter during these frequent encounters between librarian and researcher made for excellent rapport. On occasion, reflecting the more easy-going atmosphere of those early days, it also led to some practical jokes. One analyst, long since retired, when he received his packet of cards from the government and law bibliographer, quickly flipped through them, remarked upon their invaluable help to him in his work, and then, with a flick of the wrist, sent them sailing into his wastebasket! Needless to say, the poor bibliographer was quite nonplussed and it was not until his retirement that the researcher confessed that he rapidly retrieved the cards from the wastebasket as soon as the bibliographer's back was turned!

With the enormous amount of reading/scanning of current affairs literature required of them, our bibliographers soon turned into walking encyclopedias and their provision of up-to-date current affairs reference service became legendary throughout the Service. A top-notch individual could be counted upon to prepare as many as 65 citations a day -- and this in addition to a multitude of other tasks he or she was expected to perform.

In the fall of 1967, when the staff of researchers had grown to 171, the management of the Service (then still known as the Legislative Reference Service) decided to convert these operations from the traditional manual to an automated mode in an effort to improve its information support services to the internal staff and to extend it in a limited degree to its congressional clientele. The initial efforts were accompanied by failures and frustrations, primarily because of insufficient advance planning and staff preparation. Returning from its 1968 Christmas party, the staff of bibliographers was confronted with two paper-tape keypunch typewriters and told to automate! No training had been scheduled, workflow procedures had not been worked out in advance, and the entire system of matching individual researchers' interests to subject categories of citations -- something that in the past had resided totally in the bibliographers' brain cells -- had not been developed. It later turned out that because of a shortage of available automation equipment, placing the two specialized typewriters in the division was the only way of insuring its availability in the future when procedures had been worked out.

Once the staff had been trained, specialized worksheets and workflow established, and inputting codes developed for transmitting the bibliographic data to the computer, other problems developed. It was not long before the hard-tried staff was inundated with diagnostic computer printouts, endless reels of punched-paper tape piled up, and confusion reigned supreme. At about that time, the Library of Congress was in its early stages of experimenting with the MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) format and the infant automated current awareness system was harnessed to what was in effect still a pilot project. In the end, the unforeseen and unfortunate result was the loss of five months worth of bibliographic data, and Library Services Division decided to suspend any further efforts at automation until the MARC format had been fully tested and was up and running.

In retrospect, if we could apply hindsight to our trials and tribulations during those early years of transition from manual to automated operations, how would we have structured the introduction of the new system so as to ensure a less traumatic conversion? It is obvious that any such major introduction of a new system will have hidden pitfalls that no amount of planning can avoid; a certain amount of proceeding on the basis of trial-and-error is inherent in such situations. However, certain criteria should be established and adhered to as a sine qua non. Of these, one of the most essential is advance planning, not only for the general outline of the new system but for all of its major elements, because omission of even one facet can bring a conversion to a grinding halt. With automation, more than with any other introduction of a new system, the interrelation of the various parts is highly critical. Of equal importance is communication, up and down the line: from management to the keyboard operator and back again. For, unless the requirements of the individual operator are taken into account, no amount of planning will succeed. The introduction of any new system -- manual or automated -- has to overcome a psychological barrier of fear: fear of the new and what it will hold in store for the individual employee. A well-prepared orientation and training approach can do much, not only to alleviate or eliminate such fears but also to get the transition off onto a smoother beginning. Finally, if we were to embark on such a major undertaking today, we would not commit all of our resources to one grand, complete effort. Instead we would devote a fraction of our resources -- both human and material -- to a pilot project which would enable us to observe it in all its phases, minor as well as major; to eliminate troublesome procedures or equipment; and to make appropriate adjustments until we had assured ourselves that the full-scale conversion could be undertaken with a minimum of disruption of our ongoing operations.

Concurrent with our stop-and-go attempts at automating the entire system, the head of the bibliographic section was entrusted with the task of preparing a suitable thesaurus for the new system to replace what had been a workable subject heading list for the manual system but entirely unsuitable for a sophisticated automated version of our current awareness operation. The result was the Legislative Indexing Vocabulary (LIV), the first edition of which was available for testing in early 1969.

At the same time, we soon realized that we could not expect any savings in either staffing or time by automating a previous manual operation. It has been our experience that at the inputting end of the system, accuracy has become much more critical, requiring additional staff and time for editorial work, e.g. proofreading. Inputting now involves not merely the identical textual matter previously processed, but in addition requires attention to critical detail imposed by computer processing. Special work-sheets had to be devised, coding of data elements to facilitate computer manipulation was required, and so on, so that the textual input is both more extensive and complex.

Whereas previously all that was required was the simple mechanical preparation of a citation on an aniline mat, complex inputting procedures were now called for to satisfy the demands of the computer, requiring trained keyboard operators and bibliographic assistants and editors. In addition, to keep pace with the expansion of the Service's research staff which had grown to 284 by 1972 (and nearly 500 by 1980) — a long-range expansion authorized by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 -- the Library Services Division's staff of bibliographers was expanded by six, the first such growth in the history of the unit. However, while the original cadre of bibliographers was subjected to the trauma of the automation conversion, we were able to spare future new staff this experience, for familiarity with automation procedures and equipment now became a standard requirement for the position.

By early 1969, the preliminary edition of the new thesaurus (LIV) was ready for testing and most other systems "bugs" had been eliminated. We therefore decided to test our new automated current awareness system -- now christened "SDI" or "Selective Dissemination of Information" -- by providing the service to two of our research divisions (the Education and Public Welfare and the Economics Divisions) on an experimental basis. At the end of six months of successful operation, we fully converted the manual to an automated mode, Service-wide, in the summer of 1969.

It became apparent at an early stage of the newly automated operation that while we could not look for any savings in time or staff at the input end of the operation, the output end demonstrated the real, powerful advantages of automation. The benefits and spinoffs proliferated beyond our wildest expectations. For example, the initial bibliographic citation which

previously had been discarded after five years now resides in computer storage for as long as we decide it will remain useful. As a unit of information, it becomes available in multiple forms and to a vastly expanded clientele of users. While the manual distribution of cards was limited by technology to a maximum of 30 recipients, thus confining this particular service internally to our own staff of researchers for whom it had been created originally, our automated SDI service now boasts a subscribership of close to 700 (!), and what is of extreme importance to us, more than half of the subscribers are comprised of Members of Congress, Senators, Committees, and congressional support agencies, none of whom had previously benefited from this service. Furthermore, many of our congressional subscribers share their subscription with several staff members in the same office, so that the impact extends far beyond the actual number of subscribers to the service. Interest profiles are now maintained by the computer instead of depending upon the sometimes shaky memory of bibliographers. Another spinoff is the production of printed author and subject catalogs, each of which can be photoreduced and photocopied for extensive distribution, whereas before there existed only one single card catalog, located within the division's premises.

The production of "on-demand" bibliographies with options for author or subject arrangement in an "off-line" or "batch" mode with a turn-around time of almost overnight delivery is yet another automated product. These "on-demands" can also be limited by very specific topics, by type of publication (for example only government documents or only legal periodicals), by time span covered by the bibliography, by geographic jurisdictions or areas (for example bibliographies concerned with listings restricted to certain states), and so on. The popularity of this automated product is evidenced by the fact that during the past fiscal year over 3,400 were produced by our staff using our computerized data base. 2,331 of them were generated in response to congressional requests; the remaining 1,143 were produced to satisfy the needs of our staff of analysts and researchers.

For "on-demands" involving a smaller than average number of "hits" or citations, utilization of cathode ray tube (CRT) terminals with associated medium-speed printers enables our staff to prepare a bibliography as fast as the printer will take it off the video screen.

One of the most impressive products of our automation of the bibliographic data base is the immediate access to the entire data base of citations via CRT terminals in multiple locations throughout the CRS and offices on Capitol Hill instead of the previous reliance upon a single card catalog in a single location. Through interaction with a sophisticated on-line thesaurus (the Legislative Indexing Vocabulary was transferred to a real time on-line mode in 1975) and integral manipulation of Boolean logic as part of the command language, searches of the entire available bibliographic data base can now be performed with great speed and precision in as many locations as there are terminals connected to the Library's central computer unit.

In a further refinement of the system, the Library Services Division has for some years now archived the majority of cited materials on microfiche and a congressional client can now request -- and receive within a few days -- a photocopy of any item cited, whether he learns of it through his weekly packet of SDI cards or from browsing through the displays on his CRT screen.

Beyond access to a number of other internal CRS data bases, the bibliographic staff can also utilize the computerized catalog of the Library of Congress as well a number of commercial data bases to which the CRS subscribes, thus drawing upon an ever-increasing fund of knowledge in its mission of providing reliable and up-to-date information support both to the Congress and the staff of CRS.

A sophisticated bibliographic data system, characterized by accuracy, speed, and convenience; multiple products; a vastly larger user population; a more powerful overall utility -- these are the true benefits of our decision to automate. The one fly in the ointment, however, remains reliability. We can exercise quality control at the input end of the operation. At the output end, we can educate the users of the system to derive the optimum possible benefit from it. Still, unless the system is completely reliable as regards both hardware and software...need one say more?

And we do encounter problems on both counts. One of the most frustrating problems is the frequency of "downtime" or periods of lack of

access to the data base because of computer hardware malfunctions. Another is human error in the computer facility, which can take any number of forms. There may be programming mistakes; there may be carelessness in executing routine procedures, such as forgetting to feed certain program cards into the computer for a given job or feeding the wrong sequence of jobs into the computer, to name only a few. Fortunately, these are problems that now occur with diminishing frequency. But they do occur. Overall, however, taking the bad with the good, it is no exaggeration to maintain that our move from a manual to an automated current awareness system has been hugely successful.

Whether an information and research support operation on a smaller scale than ours would succeed to the same extent is a question that cannot be answered unequivocally. Ultimately, it is a matter of weighing the costs against the benefits. Automation for its own sake can become counterproductive and leave an organization in a worse state than before. There are any number of operations and conditions where a manual approach that is dependable and effective may continue to provide the same benefits it has in the past for many years to come. Sometimes a rational study of an ongoing manual system that is experiencing difficulties may lead to the conclusion that all that is required for improvement is a restructuring of the manual operation along more rational lines. Any organization that is contemplating conversion to automation should proceed cautiously, and above all its managers should be able to provide clear answers to the questions: What are we seeking to accomplish by automating? What are the costs? What are the benefits? Or, to put it in colloquial terms: Is the game worth the candle?

What has been the effect of automation on our staff? Needless to say, our analysts' and researchers' task of preparing studies and reports for our congressional clientele has been immensely facilitated through nearly instantaneous access to a veritable treasure trove of highly relevant and useful citations to research materials, now cumulative back through 1969. Hard copy documents of cited materials are readily available to them by means of multiple sets of microfiche filed in each research division, which enable them either to read the documents at a microfiche reader or to print them out on high-speed microfiche printers. On-demand bibliographies to undergird their research are as close as the nearest telephone within reach to request the tailor-made product from the appropriate bibliographer in the Library Services Division.

With the research staff of CRS having grown to about 500 at this juncture, the formerly close personal contact between researchers and bibliographers -- the latter now numbering 14 -- has perforce been somewhat diluted, and the previous, somewhat leisurely encounters have now been greatly compressed into the few minutes during which the bibliographers distribute the SDI card packets to the researchers. However, we have sought to offset this to some extent by assigning bibliographers to work part of their day -- performing their accustomed tasks -- in close proximity to the research staff in the research divisions, so that they will still be available, when needed, for personal reference service. This also enables the bibliographers to keep au courant with the current matters of legislative concern that occupy our research staff, for we can never afford to lose sight of the bibliographers' prime responsibility: to provide bibliographic information support that is not only accurate, timely, and authoritative, but that is first and foremost relevant to the staff's needs.

In another attempt to foster interdivisional communication and cross-fertilization of ideas, as well as to overcome the distancing effects of physical growth and dispersion of staff, we have institutionalized periodic meetings, called "Prospectus Meetings," at which representatives of the CRS management meet with managers and senior personnel of research divisions to discuss current assignments, policies, and matters of legislative concern. Library Services Division bibliographers regularly attend these meetings as an additional means of keeping them informed about relevant issues and matters of concern to their CRS clients.

As noted earlier, in addition to utilizing its own automated bibliographic data base, as well as the Library's automated catalog, CRS has in recent years subscribed to various commercial automated data bases in special subject areas. Each of these requires different keyboard commands, thesauri, and search strategies. Further, the Library's own computer personnel continue to improve and refine the capabilities of our own system. A special staff in the CRS Information Systems Section has the responsibility of keeping abreast of all the latest developments in these areas and for the preparation of training programs, so that our staff of

bibliographic assistants, bibliographic editors, and bibliographers can be apprised of these developments and is able to exploit all available automated data base resources to their fullest extent. Thus, continuing education for our veteran staff and on-the-job training for our new bibliographers and clerical support staff are combined to provide the research staff of the Congressional Research Service with first-class, highly expert, and sophisticated bibliographic information support.

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DIVISION: General Research Libraries

SECTION:

32/GENR/2E

Libraries as Information Service Agencies (IVS)

by
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IFLA Council 1981

Division: General Research Libraries

Franz George Kaltwasser

Libraries as Information Service Agencies (IVS)

1. Introduction

It seems to me that the time is ripe for IFLA also to become involved in the question of libraries as information service agencies in the modern sense. If I am correct, this has not occurred until now; at least not before a large forum. In several countries, the role of libraries in this area has been the subject of considerable study and discussion. But an exchange of experiences seems to be still lacking. In 1977 in the USA for example, a conference with over 700 participants took place under the auspices of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science of the University of Pittsburgh. This bore the title "The On-line Revolution in Libraries.[1] The title of the conference was a bit far-fetched. One cannot speak of a "revolution" any more than a revolution in microphotography, xerography, or Marc tapes.[2] But all of these have changed librarianship a little and that is certainly also applicable to information service agencies. We should, therefore, concern ourselves with this subject. I suspect that it will increasingly concern us and, as it affects a development that is still in a state of flux, the topics for consideration will also continue to change. I shall try to point out a number of problems from today's standpoint.

2. Information service as the traditional task of libraries

For libraries, information service is an old task which they carry out in many ways. One can define an information service agency in the following manner:[3] "Information service agencies and reference service points have, according to the classic definition, the function of being intermediaries between those who need and request information and those who already hold the information, e.g. information and documentation bureaux. Information service agencies accept as part of their normal duties the conduct of research for the information seeker, including information sources outside the institution and the preparation of the results of this search for the user, or referral services for external sources of information".

It follows that libraries are quite naturally also information service agencies since, as part of their service to their readers, they regularly provide information to those who request it. They do this both by referring readers to the holdings of their own library and by referring them to external collections by means of relevant catalogues and bibliographies. In the last decades this activity has been exemplified by libraries forming their own information centers, in many places more modestly described as quick reference libraries. These information services depended to an ever increasing degree on the continually more and more specialised subject bibliographies which have sprung up since the 1920s. The importance of information services is shown by the fact that, in recent years, or rather decades, new libraries have been forced to take this service into consideration when planning their buildings while library services operating in older buildings have difficulty in finding room for the integration of the physical aspects of information services.

This ancient task of libraries (so self evident in central Europe that it is taken for granted - in contrast perhaps to the Anglo-American scene; I am not qualified to speak about other countries) this ancient task has now received a new dimension which makes it necessary, or at least raises the suggestion, that the complex problems of information provision through libraries be reconsidered. The starting point for this is the fact that more and more information services throughout the world will be made accessible by means of EDP. This opens up an undreamed of quantity of data through a multiplicity of different access points which had previously not been thought possible. This throws up a large number of problems including the fundamental question of the integration of such services into libraries, their connection with conventional methods, and the demarcation of information services outside the library.

3. The present availability of data bases

It all began with the link up of several American libraries, through VDUs to the medical data bases Medlars and Excerpta Medica in the early 1970s. In Europe this development occurred in the second half of the 70s but spread quickly. In the Federal Republic of Germany it was most actively promoted by the Deutsche Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information (DIMDI) in Cologne. At the same time its utilization spread, not least, because of the support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [i.e. German Research Association].

In the last few years, information service agencies have been set up in many other Eastern and Western countries, including the so-called underdeveloped countries. This is clearly illustrated by a glance at the 3rd edition of the *Encyclopaedia of information systems and service*, 1978. However, this encyclopaedia also shows, albeit involuntarily, by the demonstrable gaps in its coverage, how impossible it has already become to survey this field. Anyone who has expert knowledge of aspects of this field will recognize this at once. In particular, there is a dearth of coverage of the non-English contributions to this field. (Incidentally, this encyclopaedia follows the bad custom of translating the names of non-English corporate bodies into English, and arranging them under these English names, even when there is no official English form for their name).

For a clear understanding one must differentiate between the compilers of databases and the suppliers of on-line data services.

3.1 Compilers of data bases

The number of publicly accessible data bases - in the Western countries alone - and bearing in mind that there are considerable national differences in their size - amounts at present to approximately 700. They can be identified, for instance, in the "Directory of on-line data bases", vol. 2, no. 1 and 2, 1980/81, published by Cuadra Associates, Santa Monica, California. The number is growing rapidly. Taking only the period from Autumn 1980 (vol. 2, no.1) to Spring 1981 (vol. 2, no.2) the number of databases listed in the above directory increased by 83. These databases which are available for on-line interrogation may be divided into bibliographic data bases and databses of facts. The former are naturally of more interest to libraries as they refer to articles, reports, patents, dissertations, conference reports, books,and newspaper articles. Sometimes they even give the whole text.

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Their contents covers almost all disciplines, although the majority of the databases are devoted to natural sciences and technology. However, there is also an increasing number of databases devoted to the social sciences and humanities while business and industry are of course strongly represented.

The databases are compiled by organisations which are sometimes responsible for several of them simultaneously. A famous example is the US National Library of Medicine which compiles the following databses: AVLINE, CATLINE, HEALTH PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION, LABORATORY ANIMAL DATA BANK, MEDLINE and SERLINE.

3.2 Suppliers of on-line data services, Host Systems

As a rule bases are not available directly from the organisation which compiles them, but through host computers, i.e. through centers which offer an on-line service, usually on the basis of fees. For example, there are the following well-known suppliers of on-line data services:

- BLAISE (British Library Information Service), London
- BRS (Bibliographic Retrieval Services), Inc, Scotia, New York
- DIALOG / Lockheed Information Systems, Palo Alto, CA
- ISI (Institute for Scientific Information), Philadelphia
- New York Times
- SDC (System Development Corporation), Search Service, Santa Monica, CA

At present there are four in the Federal Republic of Germany:

- DIMDI (Deutsches Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information), Köln
- Fachinformationszentrum Technik e.V., Frankfurt/Main
- GID (Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation), Frankfurt/Main
- INKA (Informationssystem Karlsruhe), Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH, Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen

Some of the host systems are organised by the public sector, others, especially in the USA are operated by the private sector. In part they are competing enterprises and this, in the eyes of the European market, is the most interesting aspect of the American suppliers of on-line data services. In this connection some people have already used the nasty word "Information war".

From a technical point of view, the Host Systems are available through a number of data transmission networks. For example the American Host Systems are available through Telenet or Tymnet. In Canada DATAPAC is available. The Postal Administration of the European Communities has constructed EURONET/DIANE in 1980 for this purpose; here EURONET refers to the data transmission network which uses packet switching techniques and DIANE (Direct Information Access Network for Europe) refers to the contents of the databases.

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4. Libraries as information service agencies

The data offered by the organisations compiling the databases and made available through the host system enterprises are of value to researchers and members of many professions and have to be accessed by the individual through an information service agency. The question which interests us is what role libraries could, and should, play in this process. To start with one should mention that there are already terminals in libraries, by means of which on-line databases can be interrogated. In the USA there are several hundred such terminals in libraries.[4] In the Federal Republic of Germany there are approximately 30. In other countries the position is similar. Obviously, in addition to libraries there are many conventional information service agencies such as professional associations, press information bureaux; industrial organisations; and research institutions all of which offer direct access to databanks.

The basic question is: are libraries really suitable places to provide highly technical information services based on data produced elsewhere and available for interrogation by their users through on-line systems? I wish to answer this question unequivocally in the affirmative and say that the installation of this sort of information service represents an opportunity which must be seized, otherwise libraries will be lacking in their duty to the public.

The provision of information is the chief task of every library. Since the invention of writing, libraries have been the purveyors of the accumulated knowledge of the world in its written form. For this purpose, they have constructed their own catalogue system. They have also, for many years, accepted responsibility for document retrieval systems in a conventional form (i.e. in the form of published bibliographies). It is therefore impossible to imagine any reason why they should not take responsibility for specialised databases provided through the medium of EDP.

This is a task for different types of libraries. Special libraries must address themselves to their specialised circle of users and provide a highly selective information service aimed at these users. The large general research libraries (i.e. university libraries, national libraries and also the larger public libraries) are specially suitable for this new task. They are open to everyone, and designed to serve the advancement of every branch of knowledge. It should not be forgotten that this has made them instruments for access to unbiased freedom of thought. By this means they serve the unfettered development of knowledge and public opinion. Those periods in the history of some countries when this was, or is, not the case, are times of darkness. The library, which is universally accessible to those who wish to use it, is also the proper place for unfettered access to information data bases.

Research libraries are especially favourably placed for offering this new service because they have specialists available who can carry out the duties of information searchers. It is therefore an ideal task for the specialist librarians of research libraries. Of course, in order to carry out this work they must be relieved of some of their duties. However, by this means they will get into much closer contact with the major users of their library than has been the case for a long time. This can and must lead to a more effective performance with respect to collection building and exploitation of the collection.

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Finally, it is especially important that libraries can make available the documents referred to in a database search so that the path between information about documents contained in the databases and the documents themselves should be as short as possible.

5. Special requirements for the development information service agencies in libraries

The basic statement that computer based databases should be available through libraries requires some expansion. The application of the basic principle leads to a list of questions for whose solution a certain amount of practical experience is already available.

It has already been established that most databases cannot be interrogated by anyone at will, but that they require professional information searchers.

The confusingly large supply of partly competing enterprises is not easily understood even when there is advice from professional searchers. This is due to the fact that the different specialist areas have different, and often complicated, thesaurus structures. Therefore, in order to achieve an efficient information service it is necessary to lay down certain prerequisities:

- Concentration

Because of the large supply, there is a danger that specialised institutions will want a direct access to the data transmission networks. This would result in a large number of expensive installations being installed which, individually, would be underutilized. In order to avoid such a dispersion, it seems that a certain degree of concentration is necessary so that the introduction of expensive, specially trained, personnel will lead to economies of scale.

- Specialisation

The installation of remote terminals in many different places, each serviced by an information searcher, will encourage these information searchers to interrogate as many different data banks as possible. A concentration of information searchers and terminals in large units will enable the individual information searcher to specialise and send the information seeker to the relevant expert. Only concentration makes a sensible specialisation of information services possible.

- Interdisciplinary units

Information seekers requiring information which covers several specialist areas, an everyday occurrence in the terminals which have already been installed, can only be rationally served in the larger efficiently managed information service agencies.

- Continuous access to information services

Efficiently managed information service agencies must be continuously available for the provision of information. This is only possible in large units where a team of information searchers can deputise for each other.

...

- The complementary nature of automated and conventional information provision services

Information exchange services should not, as a rule, be separated from other sources of information sources (books and periodicals) because the provision of information services through databases and conventional literature searches frequently complement each other. An important task of an information exchange service must be to analyse the enquirer's information request to determine whether the research could not be done more quickly and cheaply by means of a "conventional" bibliography than from a database via a visual display unit.

- Public access

Information exchange agencies must, as a matter of principle, be available to every citizen who has a request for information suitable for treatment by an available database. Access must under no circumstances be the privilege of a favoured group belonging e.g. to a specific institution.

6. Influence on the traditional library service

Though one can hardly describe the installation of information exchange services in libraries as a revolution, even an evolutionary process brings changes. It is undoubtably true that one usually recognizes the extent of change only at a later point in time; nevertheless, one may be able to assess some of the changes early on and indeed one should also try to recognize them in order to be able to steer a sensible and cost-effective course.

The databases offer a manifold of access possibilities for a wealth of bibliographic material, among others and not least via subject concepts, including combinations of subjects. This raises the question: must this opportunity of subject access to bibliographical materials which is also available, at least in part, in the respective library, lead to competition with the traditional subject catalogue of the library, and if so, how?

The traditional forms of subject catalogues are represented by the systematic classified catalogue and the subject catalogue. In many countries the latter is interfiled with the author title catalogue to form a dictionary catalogue (especially as developed by Cutter). The classified catalogue of the Western countries has deep historical roots which it is not within the scope of this paper to discuss. However, the underlying concept is that all knowledge can be systematically classified and that this can be done once and for all. It was obvious that such an idea could be applied to a classification of a collection of books. Konrad Gesner, with his "Pandekten" (1548-1549) in the 2nd part of his *Bibliotheca universalis* exercised a great influence on the development of the classified library catalogue[5]. One should also mention the influence Gabriel Naudé and Leibnitz in this connection. At first the classification and the classified shelf arrangement of books went hand in hand. Towards the end of the 19th century in France,[6] and also at the beginning of the 20th century in Germany,[7] there was a separation between the systematic classification of library materials and the shelf arrangement of books.

...

The other form of subject approach to a library collection is the subject catalogue. It had already been developed in the Middle Ages from registers or other forms of catalogues and had become independent. None has ever claimed for the systematic classified catalogue that it was a mirror of the universe. It is a pragmatic tool and has found its major supporters in South Germany, Austria and the Anglo-American countries.

Has the appearance of databases had an effect on one or the other of these two forms of subject catalogues? In my opinion the answer is yes, in the sense that slowly but surely the systematic library catalogue, in the old fashioned sense, will be displaced.

The classified library catalogue, which is restricted to the holdings of one (its own) library, and moreover usually makes no provision for periodical literature, can no longer fulfill the task of a scholarly catalogue in the strictest sense of the word. It will be displaced by the new methods of information retrieval. The more knowledge advances, the further the prospect of a universal thesaurus, the more frequently the facets into which knowledge can be systematically divided. (The attempt to carry out the classification of knowledge and books from the point of view of a philosophical stance can be valid only for those who believe in that philosophy. I shall disregard such considerations here).

Instead of a universal index of knowledge, modern science is interested in specialist subject areas and it is precisely these that modern databases provide.

Besides, this replacement of the universal classified catalogue did not first result through the advent of databases. This demise had already been initiated in the bibliographic-library sphere with the advent of the specialist bibliographies. The rich development of subject bibliographies, which have grown in importance since the 1920s has various reasons. With the increasing supply of literature, none of the universal libraries could acquire and make accessible all literature pertinent to a single subject area. In addition, research methodology tended increasingly to move away from monographs to periodical articles, which, as a rule, could not be retrieved through the library catalogue. Furthermore, it has to be recognized that, in view of the continuing growth of knowledge and the fact that it can be examined and organized from so many very different aspects, a universal classification had completely lost its purpose. Electronic data processing did not lead to this development but hastened it and made it more evident.

As a footnote, in order to avoid misunderstandings, I wish to add that, of course, by this observation I do not imply that the shelf arrangement of books in a library is now obsolete. This is another question altogether. One cannot dispute that it is sensible to provide open access to books in a library. For this purpose one needs some system of arrangement on the shelves. But it is certain that the simpler the classification system and the less dependent on theories of knowledge, the more useful it will remain over a long period of time.

...

Given the recent developments in computerbased data bases is there a future for the other form of subject approach to a library collection, namely the subject catalogue? I believe the answer is Yes. Certainly, it is equally true that it does not contain references to periodical articles but there are many argument in favour of its future in libraries.

In every large library many subject enquiries are made which are of a lower level of complexity than the strictly research oriented enquiries. These simple enquiries can be swiftly and effectively answered by an alphabetical subject catalogue. In particular one should note that:

> Every large library has to cope with a host of subject related inquiries which fall outside a strict scholarly approach; for these factual inquiries, an alphabetically arranged subject catalogue offers easily found and effective answers;
>
> For those seeking a first introduction to a subject field, monograph literature plays a much more important role than specialized periodical literature; the lack of periodical literature is therefore no drawback;
>
> While it can be argued that the sum of specialized bibliographies does not constitute a universal index of literature and that the expense of constructing and maintaining a subject catalogue may not be justified for that reason, it will, if constructed for other reasons, to some extent fill this gap.

One might therefore say that if the databases and specialized subject bibliographies serve as the primary source for scientific research, the library subject catalogue provides everyone with a preliminary uncomplicated introduction to what the library holds on a subject area new to the inquirier and what is therefore easily obtainable. We are dealing therefore with rather different tasks which are mutually complementary. Libraries must be able to fulfill both tasks.

The apparently more modest claims of the subject catalogue is its advantage and guarantees a high degree of effectiveness. It is as universal in coverage as the acquisition policy of its library. It grows with the holdings and must not be forced into the procustean bed of a fixed classification scheme. Its terminology can be adapted to the changing usage of common language.

7. Costs

An important question that can only be raised here,but not answered in detail, is whether a charge should be made for the service which is to be offered. As a rule, libraries offer their services without cost. Access to every sort of literature is free for the citizen of that country, i.e. that the community as a whole bears the cost of the information service of the individual who requires it. As everyone can easily calculate, this is not cheap. In addition to the cost of personnel and of materials, the public sector pays the publishers and booksellers the price of books purchased. Should libraries also purchase information services and pass them on free or should they even compile the information themselves and offer it free?

...

One shrinks from such a highly specialised and expensive service being made available gratis to every user who wants it. This reluctance is justified, because a potentially expensive instrument is being made available for answering enquiries which could also be answered by conventional and decidedly cheaper means such as searching through published bibliographies. Only very complex enquiries can be answered solely by computers and precisely this should be the computer's function. True research manifests itself in these enquiries. It would seem that levying a charge would serve as a qualification test for enquiries and could turn everday enquiries towards conventional sources of information.

These statements do not lay down which costs are to be passed on to the user, whether they should include only the charge demanded by the suppliers of on-line databases or, in addition, the costs incurred by the information service agency, in this case the libraries (i.e. the cost of equipment and personnel). It seems to me more in accordance with the established principle of free library service if the user is only charged the first cost i.e. the charge demanded by the supplier of on-line databases.

It must not be overlooked that a serious problem emerges in this connection. "Information" has been recognized as a commodity, something that is saleable. In a paper read at the 1979 IFLA Meeting in Copenhagen, Henriette D. Avram[8] pointed out that information which has become a commodity through the merging of two techniques, computer technology and information science becomes subject to regulations - e.g. through price control, but not exclusively through this aspect - and that this could influence the free flow of information in which libraries play a leading role.[8] It will be necessary to pay attention to this so that it does not exercise a negative influence.

8. Demands made on the databses

It would be quite false to fall into a state of euphoria and maintain that everything that is offered for sale by the database merchants is good. As this is patently not the case, one should simply not take up the offer. Rather one should ask whether, and how, libraries can influence what is offered by the database suppliers. This is certainly not easy. In spite of this it seems to me that libraries have possibilities for exercising some influence. The situation of libraries is not really so bad if they organise themselves properly and co-operate with each other. The library, as an information service agency, does not purchase a database as a whole like a book. Rather they interrogate it repeatedly for their own needs and over a period, ascertain its strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, databases compete among themselves. Consequently one has, at any rate up to a certain point, the possibility of choice and this should be very deliberately exploited for the advantage of the library user. If one does this one has, perhaps, the possibility of influencing the databank contents. I wish to raise a number of points on which one should dwell more and at greater length:

> One should seek to find on what selection criteria the specific databases have been constructed. Are they based on a careful selection of the literature or are the selection principles lax? Do the databases consist solely of data purchased from another producer of data? Are they, therefore, "information ruins". How up to date is the information etc.?

...

This consideration includes, and I wish to emphasize this point, the relative proportion of literature selected from different languages. One must particularly emphasize this point because for a long time the databases have contained an overwhelming preponderance of English language literature, which is excessive in relation to the available literature.

Another aspect is the care taken in indexing. The mere fact that an information enquirer receives literature citations as the result of an enquiry does not mean that he has received the best possible ones. Interrogation of a databank through terminals leads to the temptation of being satisfied with the data offered without questioning first of all whether a really relevant answer has been supplied. It seems to me that we have here, at times, too much pleasure at playing with the technical toy and that the feeling of satisfaction at having obtained some answer from the computer influences our critical faculties.

Finally, one must express serious criticism of the great variety in the structures of the databases. The thesauri and structures do indeed prove my point that the examination of scholarly concepts can be made from various facets. However, they prove it only too well. It would certainly be possible to reduce the manifold of structures. By this I do not mean to imply that the search strategy in the field of fine arts, for instance should be identical with those in another field e.g. medicine.

In spite of this I believe it is proper to state that standardisation is absolutely essential in this area. If are no uniform standards it is totally impossible to make full use of the information offered.

No information searcher can so fully master more than a few of the database structures as to be able to take full advantage of all the possibilities which are offered. Many procedures, and in some cases also the subject structure of a data base must be made to conform to certain standards. I see here a difficult tak for the information service agencies, and that includes libraries, when they formulate their demands to the suppliers of on-line databases.

I wish to mention a final problem. We should very carefully watch that information is not politically or commercially manipulated. Here lies a grave danger, indeed an even graver danger than in the case of printed books. These are easier to examine than the databases, whose contents are shrouded in "darkness" and can only be probed by directed narrow beams of light so that only small details from the impenetrable mass appear at any one time on the visual display unit. The question cannot be resolved by the belief that either commercial dissemination alone or, on the other hand, only state organised dissemination are the correct path. It can be said that healthy competition will best ensure freedom of information. One should not under any circumstances endeavour to prevent such competition on the grounds of "rationalization".

...

9. The connection between information service and document supply

New solutions raise new problems. The swift and effective search for literature references through databases, whose input is very comprehensive, naturally creates a demand, not merely for swift advice about literature, but also for the literature itself.

The better the literature alerting service the greater the problem. The visual display unit gives information about the literature available throughout the world but this information is not necessarily available where the display unit is situated.

The problem is made more acute not only because the methods of specialized accessare being constantly improved but also because ever more specialized periodicals tend to appear.[9] Many libraries cannot keep up with this supply of new periodicals through their serial purchasing funds.

Solutions to this problem are sought in various ways:

Through the establishment of a national lending library which keeps the most recent literature on hand, especially in the fields of science and technology and particularly in the form of periodicals. The British Lending Library, Lending Division, Boston Spa, is the most successful example of this method.

Another way is through the creation of central special libraries each of whom seeks to solve this problem within well defined subject areas.

Finally, in countries with strongly decentralized library structures, like the Federal Republic of Germany, another way must be found so that the many difficulties inherent in this structure may be overcome. This solution consists of the connection of two existing computer systems:

(a) The data bank systems; and
(b) the computer based union catalogue systems which give library locations (as, for example, the system in process of construction in the Federal Republic of Germany)

If one could join these library based EDP systems, especially for periodicals, with the databases the solution to the problem of a swifter provision of literature would be a lot nearer. It would be broadly based and therefore relatively free from crises caused by the breakdown of a part of the system (i.e. one of the individual libraries) because this would not result in the breakdown of the whole system.

The thought is enticing but the implementation remains difficult. I may be permitted to refer to the considerations current in the Federal Republic of Germany. The question has been put by us to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft which has come up with the following provisional thoughts on the subject.[10]

> An on-line ordering system through which a bibliographic reference is directly fed into the delivery process of the library containing the documents is not suitable for the present because, during the whole research process, the user must repeatedly make his selection from the wealth of material available and this cannot be done by a machine.
>
> On the other hand the improvement of the location information

service for periodicals and other current publications is urgent since these play a major role in databases.

We suggest that the contents of the periodical database in the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz and the Deutsche Bibliotheks Institut in Berlin be improved. (This means the inclusion of the greatest possible number of periodical titles and the greatest possible number of library locations in the Federal Republic of Germany. At present, i.e. in the Spring of 1981, it contains roughly 250,000 periodical titles with over 750,000 locations). It is also suggested that they be organized as an on-line information databank so that they can be searched rapidly from every locality. It should be possible to apply the results of the search to the creation of an interlibrary loan request form for direct loan requests.

This suggestion has since been taken up and work is in progress to give the periodical data base a retrieval capability and make it accessible via EURONET/DIANE. The data base system envisaged for this is the GRIPS/DIRS system developed by DIMDI. In order to facilitate access a concordance programme is being constructed which will automatically transpose the most frequently used periodical title abbreviations into the full title used by the periodical database. It is also envisaged that the location nearest the place from which the enquiry originated will be given (i.e. in the appropriate regional interlibrary loan system).

This means that once a search in a database has resulted in a specific literature citation, one can interrogate the periodical databank via the same terminal to ascertain the nearest locality from which the literature can be requested. The loan request must then be made there.[11]

I would also like to refer to another interesting development. This is a joint project by Lockheed and Technischen Informationsbibliothek (TIB) in Hanover. As a result of this joint project the German on-line user of the Dialog databases can have the literature citations which he has selected during a search placed in a so-called parking file by making a simple sign on the visual display unit. Several times a week the TIB interrogates these data automatically and processes the requests placed in this file.

10. Conclusion

In the last years and decades of this age of technical innovation, especially in the field of electronic data processing, librarians have thought and achieved much with regard to basic questions. The UBC programme of IFLA and its results already offer obvious proof of this (ISBD etc.)[12] The international efforts have also had fruitful consequences in the national sphere (AACR 2, RAK, MARC, MAB 1, etc.) Thus the prerequisites have been created for a more effective exchange of data.

The UBC Programme has been an obvious challenge to develop the UAP programme. It is accepted that literature, in no matter what form, should always be available and available in the quickest and most uncomplicated manner.

...

UBC and UAP are library based programmes. I consider it necessary to link them better, to the documentation services offered in the form of databases. I believe that the deliberate and skillful utilization of the specialized computer based databanks also creates the opportunity for a closer co-operation between documentation centres and libraries, for the promotion of scholarship and to satisfy the universal demand for information which require the closest possible connection between information services and document supply. This is no revolutionary task, Rather, librarians see it as an old task, dressed up in new clothes, which it is necessary to carry out in order to protect the role of libraries in the field of modern information services. This is not self interest on the part of libraries but serves the best possible and freest transmission of information on which mankind depends.

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...

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36/PAR/2E

How the Parliamentary On-Line Information System at Westminster was planned

by
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How the Parliamentary On Line Information System[1] at Westminster was planned

The House of Commons Library started to plan its computer-based indexing system only about a year later than members of the staff of the Congressional Research Service started planning theirs, i.e. in 1968, but the history of the last twelve years in each institution has been rather different. The House of Commons Library approach has been dictated by the fact that the Library is not a very large organisation, even now there are only just over one hundred staff, and that unlike the CRS it does not have the backing of the facilities, including the computer facilities, of a national library. The development therefore has been one step at a time and there have been delays, sometimes because of the attitude of the House of Commons itself and sometimes because of staffing problems.

On 7th September 1967 the New Scientist published an article by David Menhennet, now the Librarian, and John Poole, Head of the Science and Technology Section, entitled 'Information Services of the Commons Library'. While it was a general article it concluded: 'The prospect offered by a computerised information retrieval system operating in Parliament ... has already been hinted at by a number of writers on the reform of Government. Such ideas are now under active consideration'. At the time it should be noted the Library had an elaborate and effective strip index system which covered Parliamentary papers and proceedings comprehensively and current affairs selectively but generously.

The staff of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Culham Laboratory responded to the New Scientist article by offering to cooperate with the Library for a limited period in an experimental project taking the Library's normal indexing input and running it through their system, they used a KDF9 English Electric computer at the time, and producing weekly elegant lists of material under one of 36 main groups. Indexing terms were limited to 300 and only material on British domestic affairs was covered.

[1] POLIS is an acronym for Parliamentary On-Line Information System, one of forty-nine entries made by staff of both Houses of Parliament as the result of a competition run in the Spring of 1980.

The trial ran for the autumn of 1968 to Jan. 1969 and was really very successful, pleasing not only 85% of the 400 Members of Parliament who received it but many selected outsiders, such as journalists and academics. But no significant funds had been set aside for this pilot project, so after Jan. 1969 it ceased. However, on the strength of this success, Library staff negotiated a grant of £5,000 from the Office for Scientific and Technical Information and on 22nd July 1969 the House of Commons (Services) Committee endorsed their Library Sub-Committee's proposal to add a matching £5,000 in order that a feasibility study might be started. Small as the figures appear today, they were important as a point of principle: both the House of Commons and the Government had shown themselves willing to back the Library's proposal for a feasibility study.

The study was conducted throughout 1970 by ASLIB and by March 1971 the report was available. The summing up included: 'The central conclusion of this study is that the Library of the House of Commons should move towards automation. The computer should be put to work to enhance the information services available to Members of Parliament'. A five year development programme was costed at £177,500 and there was a proposal for seven new staff.

So far things had moved quickly and in June 1971 the Librarian prepared a programme of moving from manual to computer-based indexing with a first phase of indexing Hansard and a second phase of indexing Parliamentary papers and legislation. The Library Sub-Committee however in March 1972 decided that the cost was too great and that 'it should not be implemented at this stage'. However, they did recommend that a suitably qualified person should be added to the staff, both to keep the Library in touch with developments and start planning the project. This was a very important decision, as it meant that there was one member of staff concentrating entirely on this future technique and that the Library could field a qualified staff

member not just an administrator in any future discussions. Actual recruitment to this post did not take place until 1974 but meanwhile in 1973 both IBM and ICL gave demonstrations of computer technology to Members of both Houses and their staff. These displays took the interest in computers beyond the Library Department and led directly to the House of Lords starting a study of possibilities. The House of Lords first tried out and finally introduced a modest though quite different scheme from the House of Commons Library. Then in 1976 there was an Informal Joint Committee of the House of Lords and House of Commons on the application of computers in Parliament which reported in early 1977: 'The Committee is unanimous in its belief that the introduction of computer-based (information) systems into both Houses is essential if Parliament is to fulfil its proper constitutional role vis-à-vis the executive'. Following this report, the attitude towards the possible introduction of computers to Parliament started to change and both Houses set up Sub-Committees of Members who were required to deal with the subject. It had taken about a decade from the initial moves by the Library Department regarding computers to the establishment of appropriate Parliamentary machinery.

Returning to the Library situation in 1974, the new Library Computer Services Officer, who started by working for six months in the front line of traditional information giving, an important point this, set about preparing a formal Operational Requirement for the transfer of the elaborate manual indexing system to a computerised one. At about the same time, the Library was able to establish in principle that the Central Computer Agency (CCA), a Government Department dedicated to the introduction of computer power in Government operations, would be willing to consider financing any proposal from the Library which they regarded as acceptable. This was a very important stage for two reasons. Firstly, it reaffirmed that Government funds might be available and it had already been shown that the House of Commons itself found the figures of the ASLIB report too hight to recommend. and secondly, it

meant that the Library's Computer Services Officer, instead of being rather isolated from fellow technically qualified staff, could call on CCA staff for technical support.

By now the Library had set up an Internal Committee to advise the Computer Services Officer as she drew up the Operational Requirement about the actual needs of Reference staff and of Research staff. They made recommendations with regard to the order in which indexes should be transferred to the computer-based system and they considered the question of standardised lay-out and the need for a Thesaurus to be prepared in advance of any on-going system, a Thesaurus which would match the new technology. (At this point the nine strip indexes being compiled had no standard list of subject headings, so this was virgin territory as far as the Library was concerned). There was also the major question to be answered whether the Library would have its own computer or use a bureau service. During 1975 the idea of using a mini-computer was heavily canvassed but by the end of 1976 an Operational Requirement which proposed using a bureau system had been completed and most importantly had been agreed by the CCA. The Library was ready with its proposals in a paper dated 24th March 1977. The Library Sub-Committee accepted the proposal and the House of Commons Services Committee recommended on 17th May 1977 that the Librarian 'be authorised to proceed with the introduction of computer-based indexing in the Library as soon as possible'.[1] It was just six years since the Library Sub-Committee had hesitated about the proposals set out in the ASLIB report of 1971 but during those years not only had technology changed but the Library had become clearer and much more certain how it wanted to proceed. Over the years the need had also increased because the staff had grown considerably, many of them and indeed Members themselves were now in buildings outside the Palace of Westminster and just one set of indexes compiled on strips and filed in one sequence appeared increasingly inadequate. Other important gains during those six years was the support of CCA, the decision to use a bureau service and the decision about a Thesaurus.

After the May 1977 Services Committee recommendation, it was clear that the House of Commons itself would have to debate the issue and staff had to wait many months before the House resolved that the project should go ahead. At about the same time, the Library offered a one year contract to a professional Thesaurus compiler to come and prepare a Thesaurus with the aid of ICI "Assassin" computer power. This started in June 1978 and was almost completed and tested by June 1979.

Following the decision of the House of Commons on 27th January 1978, that the Library should proceed, there was to be a further delay. Firstly, the Library's Computer Services Officer resigned and it took about six months to replace her and secondly the newly formed Computer Sub-Committee, as it had just acquired responsibility for advising Mr. Speaker on all House of Commons computer matters, naturally thought that it should examine the one concrete proposal that existed, namely the Library's Operational Requirement. After taking evidence from Library staff, the Committee recommended on 25 July 1978 'that the Library's Operational Requirement be amended to take into account the need for overall applicability of any package that is finally chosen.'[1] While the Library's project was and indeed remains the largest and most advanced example of the application of computers to the work of the House of Commons, it was clearly wise that its particular requirements should not inhibit later and wider needs. These adjustments were completed in the autumn of 1978 and the CCA on behalf of the House of Commons started the tendering procedure.

By early 1979 there were three firms left in the running for the contract but the CCA had had to readjust figures and therefore returned to the Library for them to justify the additional cost. The Computer Sub-Committee again took evidence from the Library and on the 12th July 1979 nearly twelve years after the article in the New Scientist had appeared the Committee recommended to the Speaker and the House

[1] 1977-78 HC 617-i, p.ix

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of Commons Commission that the project should definitely go ahead. On 24th July the Commission agreed.

The process of choosing a firm to offer a bureau service for the Library's indexing system was inevitably slow because demonstrations had to be checked out, equipment reviewed and a feeling of confidence in any potential winner established before a decision was arrived at. A formal Evaluation Meeting chaired by the Librarian spent a long day working through the short listed proposals in early 1980 and the eventual winner was SCICON, a subsidiary of BP, who offered to do the job through the UNIDAS system.

At this point I would like to turn to the question of Library staff and how they were brought into the picture.

From after the ASLIB survey, which was completed in late 1970, until the arrival of the Computer Services Officer in 1974, only a few senior members of staff were involved in the computer project and in view of the length of time it was to take, it is probably a good thing that too many Library staff were not involved too soon. One thing that those of us who were involved throughout had to have was patience! After the Computer Services Officer had settled in, as already mentioned, an Advisory Committee to help her was formed in 1975 and this consisted of about seven middle and senior grade staff.

The next stage of staff involvement was connected with the preparation of the Thesaurus which started in mid-1978. House of Commons Library staff are in three main grades. The senior of these is the Library Clerk grade, then there is a middle grade, the majority of whom are professional librarians, and finally a supporting grade, the majority of whom are clerical and secretarial. In developing the Thesaurus, although senior staff were consulted in their subject areas, it was

the professional staff who were regarded as a college of professional opinion and as the experts on indexing. Their contribution to the work of the Thesaurus compiler was significant and they began to be involved in the preliminary planning for the future. Because they are scattered through the Sections, including Research Sections of the Library, their views on computer matters tended to be communicated to senior staff.

There was further staff involvement when in December 1978 there were two mass meetings of staff, where all were invited to come and listen to explanations and to give views. At these meetings I proposed the idea of a Computer Newsletter to keep staff in touch. This was agreed and so far some eight issues have been brought out and I think have been found useful. Finally, as the contract was being let, on April 1st 1980, the Computer Services Officer's post came to an end - the years of preparation were completed - and a new Computer and Technical Services Section was established in the Library to organise and run the on-going system. The small Cataloguing Unit, which numbered three professional and two support staff, was added to the Section, as clearly the computer-based indexing system will in time involve re-thinking our cataloguing methods.

Once the contract was let, Library staff became involved through three different Committees which were set up. The first of these holds Progress Meetings nearly monthly and consists of SCICON staff, Library staff, CCA, by now called CCTA, staff and a new Parliamentary official, the Computer Development Officer, who works for the Computer Committees of both Houses. It is his job to see that computer developments are planned for Parliament as a whole and that implementation is coordinated between the two Houses. He has been in post since December 1978. This Progress Meeting Committee measures current performance, plans future action and works to ensure an efficient service. A second Committee is the User's Committee, where user representatives meet SCICON and others to make their views known with regard to performance and needs. The third Committee is an internal

Library Advisory Committee, which meets to give the staff of the Library's views on the developing programme to the Computer and Technical Services Section.

When considering the attitude and position of Library staff to the introduction of computer-based indexing, two points have especially to be remembered. Firstly, the Library already has a well tried and popular system of visible strip indexes and so the computer method is in a highly competitive situation. Considerable staff scepticism has had to be overcome and it is surprising how quickly they have turned to the new method with enthusiasm. Secondly, it was decided early on that all staff would be trained to use the system. This was an important decision of principle as it implies confidence that the system can be used by all staff and that it is essential we have no intermediary between the information worker and the source of his references. So far over fifty per cent of the staff involved in information giving have been trained, a two day course and another follow up day after about a month, and although we vary in our aptitude there is no doubt that staff have quickly taken to the technique of retrieving information through terminals. It is certain that within a short time the majority of young recruits to the staff will already have had relevant experience at school or elsewhere. We are sufficiently confident to have more than doubled our requirement for retrieval terminals from 4 to 9, in addition to which we are increasing our inputting terminals from 3 to 4. The need for this increase has become urgent.

Before leaving the question of staff and turning briefly to the database there have during these opening months as you would expect been a number of problems. Most of these have centered in the area of 'communications' and have of course caused the staff actually dealing with Members of Parliament a number of frustrations. However, we are confident that the bureau is getting on top of these and the normal availability of the system on the basis of a 75 hour week is 98-99%. I suspect

by most standards that is a high level of availability. The bureau also offers staff a client adviser service for them to phone and it is these staff who resolve problems reported by the staff on incident report sheets. Sometimes of course it is the Library staff member who has made a mistake but as staff grow more skillful the number of these incidents is falling.

The starting point of the computer-based indexing system was to transfer into our database the following currently prepared indexes:

Parliamentary Questions Index

Parliamentary Papers and Proceedings Index

Bill Index (Legislation)

Chairman's Index (Committees, etc.)

Home Affairs Index (Press, etc.)

International Affairs Index (Press, Documents, etc.)

European Communities Index

European Secondary Legislation Index

Scientific Index

The majority of these indexes have been running for twenty to twenty five years.

The indexes consist of references to published sources and by Item groups divide roughly as follows:

Name	Annual items (estimate)
Parliamentary Questions	45,000
Parliamentary Papers	4,000
U.K. Official publications	3,750

Name	Annual items (estimate)
EEC Official publications	4,000
International & Foreign Official publications	12,000
Press comment	15,000
Library material	10,000
Catalogued material	5,000

This means there are roughly 100,000 items a year going into one or other of the nine indexes.

From October 1980 the Parliamentary Questions index has been fed into the computer-based system with both a more sophisticated indexing system than was possible with the manual method and also an abstract of the question which is text searchable and sometimes the answer - if it is brief. Also supplementary questions asked by Members are indexed - the first time that this has ever been done, as they are not to be found in the published index to the Official Report of Debates. By the end of May 1981 nearly 30,000 questions asked in the House of Commons during session 1980/81 had been entered. We have now stopped the manually prepared Parliamentary Questions index and are dependent on the computer-based system. Our next target for input to the computer system is the Parliamentary Papers and Proceedings Index and this we plan to start in November 1981. It is probable that the two following additions to the database will be the Bill Index and the European Secondary Legislation Index, as it is clearly important that at an early stage the House of Commons Library system covers legislation. All these therefore will become available for information retrieval within the Palace of Westminster. I say the Palace of Westminster because House of Commons Departments outside the Library will be able with terminals to retrieve these references and for some they will be useful.

Terminals will also be available in the House of Lords. In principle, the House of Commons are happy for other users to have access to the database, in the case of non-Government organisations on payment of a small royalty, and a number of Government Departments have sent libraries and others to examine the system and assess it for their own use.

But information retrieval will not necessarily be the only use of POLIS. At the moment an index has to be prepared and published which covers all Bills, House of Commons Papers and Command Papers. This is the Sessional index and it has been published since 1800. We are examining whether its compilation which is the Library's responsibility cannot be achieved as a by-product of our work. Similarly we are studying (with senior staff from Hansard itself) whether the published index to the Official Report, "Hansard", cannot be a by-product of our indexing for POLIS, as currently it is prepared in a traditional way and it is important to examine these possibilities at this stage. At the moment it is not prepared by the Library. It is of some interest that we are examining these publishing possibilities only at this late stage of our progress, but it has been the House of Commons Library's objective to crack the information retrieval problem first and then to consider other areas where it may be a useful tool. I know that some Parliamentary Libraries have reversed this order of approach but I believe that if you are going to capture the enthusiasm and energy and, indeed in the end the imagination, of all the staff in a total system, then it is essential initially to concentrate on and to solve their problem of information retrieval.

Finally, we are aware that it will be possible to introduce for Members and for staff a system of Selective Dissemination of Information by profiling peoples' needs and then up-dating them with references. We are not giving this project top priority, partly because we know it can be done, although the resulting demand

for materials might well cause us problems and partly because at Westminster anyway, Members have very small personal staffs and might well reject the idea of more paper to examine. It is likely therefore that we shall start with our own staff, from whom we are assured of an articulate and critical assessment of how it is going.

It has been a long haul from 1967 to 1981. The key stages have been the pilot project through Culham, the feasibility study by ASLIB, the appointment of technical staff to the Library, the securing of financial backing from the CCA, the planning of the system and the creation of a Thesaurus, the backing of the House of Commons and the involvement and in time enthusiastic support of the Library staff. But it is just as important now to look forward to the completion of the database, the spread of the system to outside users, the possibilities of publications of indexes and the introduction where required of Selective Dissemination of Information. Although POLIS is a House of Commons Library based system designed for Members and their staff, it is also a library of references to published information on public issues which is updated daily and records both the background to and reports concerning the nation's great debates.

POLIS

Technical Supplement

1. The contract is between SCICON Computer Services Ltd and the CCTA for a six-year bureau service for the House of Commons Library.

2. POLIS was designed and implemented by SCICON and is mounted on a SCICON Univac 1100/62 series computer at Milton Keynes, about fifty miles north of London.

3. Two tarrif T private lines connect the computer to Westminster and equipment at each end enables all terminals to share either line.

4. The retrieval terminals distributed through the Library are Cifer 2632s and are equipped with small, quiet thermal printers.
   The input terminals in the Computer and Technical Services Section are Cifer 2684s and are equipped with magnetic diskettes for the immediate storing of input. They can also be used for retrieval.
   The Computer and Technical Services Section has a SDS-11 PDP-11 system with printers and disc storage for high speed printing of references retrieval. Users can direct print out on this system from all terminals.

5. There are two elements of software:
   a) Programmes developed by SCICON to handle data input at the Cifer terminals.
   b) UNIDAS a Univac information retrieval package, including a user dialogue which is an adeptation of Euronet standard common language.
      UNIDAS runs under OS1100 on the Univac 1100.
      The database is manipulated by DMS1100 with full CODASYL implementation.

6. The on-line system is available to the Palace of Westminster from 9a.m.- 1a.m. on Mondays to Thursdays, 9a.m. - 6p.m. Fridays and 10a.m. - 1p.m. on Saturdays.

7. The Thesaurus, which has about 8,000 preferred terms and 4,000 non-preferred terms, is kept in the database but may be purchased as print-out or magnetic tape at a little over £100 a copy. It is printed six-monthly.

8. The hourly connect charge for the on-line system is £55. This service is run by SCICON not by the House of Commons Library.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: General Research Libraries

SECTION:

5/GENR/1E

The Swedish Parliamentary Library and the Official Government Publications

by
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In 1922 something very important happened to the Swedish Governmental Committee system; the introduction of the publication-series "Statens offentliga utredningar" (the Swedish Government Official Reports). Until then there had existed no regular form for publication of reports and recommendations given by Government Committees and for that reason they had been somewhat difficult to identify and acquire. Since its beginning reports from Government Committees and experts have been published within the framework of "Statens offentliga utredningar", where they are registered in consecutive order by the year. In connection with the planning of this new publication-series the idea of preparing an annual bibliography of Swedish official publication was presented. However, the realization of this conception did not take place until almost ten years later.

The need for the bibliography under consideration was evident. The means for orientating oneself in the complicated domain of the official printing, so difficult to survey, were remarkably scanty. In those days the Swedish National Bibliography was edited by the Swedish Publishers' Association. Of course, in this work quite a number of official reports and books could be found, but the minor official publications, prevailing in number, were not listed, as they were considered to be of no interest to the book trade. It would also be more appropriate to compile a separate bibliography of official publications as a complement to the National Bibliography, a form of publishing adapted in many countries.

In 1929 the Board of the Swedish Parliamentary Library submitted a written request to the Minister of Finance, asking that an annual bibliography of documents, issued by Government departments and authorities, should be prepared. As reason was given the existing great difficulties in obtaining information about these publications, so indispensable to the work of the Riksdag and the State administration. The Board also proposed that the

compilation of such a bibliography should be entrusted to the Parliamentary Library, as it serves not only the Riksdag but also the Government administration. The bibliography should contain cataloguings of all publications issued by Government departments and authorities - printed forms were to be excepted. The Government approved of these proposals.

When the Parliamentary Library had drawn up a plan for the publishing of the annual bibliography, the Board once more approached the Ministry of Finance, at the beginning of 1931, proposing a statute and regulations concerning compulsory delivery to the Library of Government documents as from the year 1931. The Government then issued a decree which charged the State administration to deliver a deposit copy of every printed official document to the Parliamentary Library. The bibliographical work could now commence, and the first volume, covering the years 1931-1933 appeared in 1934. It was followed by a long series of annual volumes. Modern office techniques have made it possible that documents can be duplicated by methods other than printing, promptly and without great cost. To a great extent this has been the case as far as the official publications are concerned; in the bibliographical work it gradually became necessary to reconsider the selection principles. Therefore, as from 1968, also duplicated material is listed. The original statute concerning the Government authorities' liability to deliver a deposit copy of their publications to the Parliamentary Library has been replaced by a statute issued in 1978.

Since 1931 the Swedish State administration has been steadily growing, during the last decades at an accelerated pace. Thus, for instance, in the first volume of the Annual Bibliography, the total number of recorded authorities amounted to 191 while in the last edition they totalled 535. Naturally, this relation is also reflected in the number of titles listed and in the format of the bibliography. The unpretentious size of the early volumes

contrasts with the voluminous bibliographies of later years. The sharp rise in the number of titles has resulted in a corresponding increase in the work load of the editorial staff of the Annual Bibliography, which has at times been hard to master. It has been necessary to scrutinize and reconsider the work routines as well as the criteria on which to discard certain material in order to find practicable simplifications and efficiency improvements.

It is well known that it is a delicate, if not impossible undertaking to give a precise definition of the concept "official publications". In Sweden this term stands for not only documents issued by the State administration but also for the large amount of publications emanating from County Councils and local government units. It has become necessary to apply a more narrow concept: "Official Government publications". All problems are still not settled, however. There remain a great many borderline cases on which to decide. Some examples: publications, issued by private organizations, whose activities are of vital national interest and, to a large extent, financed by Government funds, could and should they be included in a bibliography entitled Official Government Publications? Is it appropriate that research reports from State Universities' institutions are placed among the official Government publications? The staff of the Annual Bibliography has considered the problems pragmatically and, on the whole, arrived at reasonable solutions. The answer to the first question is affirmative. The second question is answered in the negtive: dissertations and research reports represent a material that is not in accordance with the regular contents of the Annual Bibliography. Research report series are summarily recorded without separate cataloguing of each volume.

One has to make a careful selection, not only as to what institutions to include but also to what publications to record. As already stated, the huge increase in the number of documents has

created considerable problems to the staff of the Annual Bibliography. For the last few years, it has been imperative to sift the material with more care. It has been possible to exclude some groups of publications, consisting of technical descriptions and catalogues, as they are satisfactorily listed elsewhere. In these cases, a reference is always made to that bibliographical source. Likewise, some of the many reports, issued by the Central Bureau of Statistics, have been only summarily catalogued, as this agency annually publishes an exhaustive list of their recent publications. It has been absolutely necessary to take these steps in order to secure the continued publication of the Annual Bibliography without a substantial increase in staff. Today, about 6.000 bibliographical titles a year are listed in the bibliography. If previous, less strict principles of selection had been applied, the annual number of titles would have amounted to about 8.000.

Until now the Annual Bibliography has been produced in a conventional way. However, at present an audit group is investigating the following question: should the Bibliography's material by and by be inserted into the data system LIBRIS, used by the Swedish research libraries, and thus, without delay, be "on line"? With extended data co-operation with other countries it would also be possible to scan the list of Swedish official publications internationally. In that case, the printed edition of the Annual Bibliography would also be published in the future, as the majority of the interested parties are not connected to LIBRIS. However, a great many problems remain to be solved, especially of financial nature - it is not inconceivable that, for the time being the Parliamentary Library must dispense with a computer-produced Annual Bibliography on account of the current high costs for the use of this computer system.

As stated above, the Annual Bibliography receives its material in the form of deliveries from Government departments and

authorities imposed on them by a Government statute. On the whole, this system is functioning satisfactorily - only occasionally do deliveries fail. In general, such an incident does not have its origin in reluctance to comply with the regulations, but rather in forgetfulness. A reminder is usually sufficient. Sometimes it happens that a Government agency has used up their entire edition of a publication without fulfilling their liability to the Parliamentary Library. In that case, the editorial staff of the Annual Bibliography makes a photocopy of the agency's statutory copy. One hundred percent coverage of the material cannot be guaranteed, of course, but missing publications probably amount to a very small number.

Publications sent to the Parliamentary Library are promptly taken care of and arranged according to publishing authority. They are almost immediately available for loans. From the newly arrived material slightly more than 25 percent is selected to form part of a list of acquisitions, which is generally published once a week. It is the publications, considered to be the most important, that are announced with shortest possible delay. These lists of acquisitions are distributed to all Members of Parliament and to several libraries of Government departments and authorities, research libraries, etc. that have declared their interest in obtaining them. Shortly after their publication, their bibliographical information reaches a large number of readers, as the official journal "Från riksdag och departement" (From Parliament and Ministries), published in about 20.000 copies, reproduces the lists. This has an almost immediate effect on the demand for the publications concerned.

As already stated, the publication of the complete Annual Bibliography has by and by lagged behind through the sharp increase in the official Government publishing. In order to, in some degree, compensate for these conditions, the lists of acquisitions have been annually cumulated and published as catalogues of selections

from the complete Annual Bibliographies, which will be published later on. The situation today (March 1981) is that the latest complete Annual Bibliography covers the years 1974-1975, while cumulated list catalogues are available as from 1976 - the one for 1980 has just been completed and handed in for printing. The editorial staff of the Annual Bibliography will probably have the manuscript for 1976-1978 ready for the press before the end of this year. The catalogues of selections will then become unnecessary.

The descriptive cataloguing follows the new rules, generally adopted by the Swedish research libraries in the 1970's. On the whole, these rules correspond with the Anglo-American cataloguing principles. The names of the various agencies constitute the main headings and the departments and authorities are placed in alphabetical order. Within each agency the Government Committees' reports are placed at the beginning of the list of catalogued publications, with remaining bibliographical titles following in alphabetical order. All bibliographical entries are numbered in consecutive order, and the publications are later on marked with these numbers and the year and shelved in stack-rooms according to numerical order. Thus, the Annual Bibliography not only supplies bibliographical information about official Government publications, but also represents a convenient catalogue of the collection.

Following the alphabetical section are an author index and a subject index. This unpretentious subject-orientated information has been widely appreciated. It has been suggested that measures should be taken in order to make the Annual Bibliography more useful to an international public. For that reason the editorial staff plans to render an English translation of the names of Government departments and authorities and possibly also to compile a catchword index in English in future volumes of the Annual Bibliography.

The Parliamentary Library's collection of Swedish Government publications is in principle available to all interested parties: Members of Parliament, civil servants, municipal officers, researchers etc. The material can be lended to other libraries through the well-organized system of inter-library lending within Sweden. Loans to Nordic neighbour countries are not unusual, and there is no reason for not allowing loans to libraries outside the Scandinavian countries. Loan applications for official Government documents can almost without exception be carried out on the day of arrival. Loan periods are always short and from small-sized publications photocopies are given to the borrowers. Furthermore, the editorial staff must often - by letter or telephone - answer inquiries about material of current interest - a commission that usually can be carried out promptly.

As already mentioned, an audit group has been investigating questions of vital importance to the further publication of the Annual Bibliography. In 1980 the investigation group has made a detailed survey, directed at categories that, in their work, might be interested in the material of the Annual Bibliography. It concerns Government departments and authorities, research libraries, public libraries, research institutes, private researchers and a number of interested parties abroad.

Among the replies to the questionnaire many regretted the delay in publication that has affected the Annual Bibliography. The publishing of the lists of selections was favourably greeted. Many wanted to recommend that, in addition to the printed version, the bibliographical information should also be made available in a data system. To the editorial staff of the Annual Bibliography it was gratifying to hear the appreciating words, said about the bibliography, its construction and its reliability. The inquiry has made one thing clear: the Annual Bibliography is indispensable in the Swedish bibliographical literature.

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DIVISION: General Research Libraries

SECTION: National Libraries

49/MAT/2E

Legal Deposit Legislation in the German Democratic Republic

by
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1. The Development of the Legal Deposit legislation in the German Democratic Republic

Already before the founding of the German Democratic Republic the Order 356 of the Soviet Military Administration had regulated the legal deposit on the territory of the then Soviet Occupation Zone. That Order, issued on December 24, 1946, at first remained valid after the German Democratic Republic had been founded. Between the years 1951 and 1953 the Board for Literature and Publishing provisionally regulated legal deposit by way of a circular letter.
Only the Second Executory Provision on the Development of Progressive Literature - Legal Deposits - of September 1, 1955 contained in principle the basic provisions concerning legal deposit which are still in force. They have merely been modified and brought to the latest stage through adjusting them to the development of the socialist library and publishing services through the Regulation in Legal Deposits of July 4, 1960 and Supplementary Regulation No. 2 on Legal Deposits of November 10, 1970.
The advantages of this legal regulation may be gathered from the clearly formulated and well-balanced articles. No use is made of explanatory texts or interpretations of stipulations. In a terse and clear way it states which obligations the depositor has toward the libraries which are entitled to receive them. Of particular importance is a clear definition of the objects to be deposited.

2. The Present Regulation of Legal Deposits in the German Democratic Republic and its Effects on the Structure of Library Holdings

The legal provisions on the legal deposit in the German Democratic Republic assist the tasks of the scientific libraries which have been laid down in the Library Regulation of May 31, 1968 (GDR Law Gazette, part 2, 1968, p. 565 et

seq.). We cannot deal in this context in detail with the contents of this Regulation. The Preamble orientates the following basic tasks: The libraries support with their means and methods, the mastery of the scientific-technological revolution and the socialist economy. In their specific way they mediate the latest cognitions and experiences of science and social practice, and contribute toward a high effectiveness of scientific research. They make an important contribution toward developing a rich intellectual - cultural life and the continuous raising of the educational and cultural standard of every citizen.

2.1. Objects of Legal Deposit

2.1.1. We read in the description of the objects subjects to legal deposit that all documents produced by printing or similar processes, i. e. all printed materials, are subject to legal deposit. In order to prevent any misunder-standings, the Regulation states precisely that this also refersto periodicals, newspaper, independent cartographic products, art prints, sheet music and pictures with or, without text. It is very fortunate that no difference is made between the objects of the book-trade (publications) and the non-book trade. That difference is, in subsequent Articles, expressed merely by the number of copies to be deposited.

2.1.2. Audio-visual Materials

The discussion on the inclusion of these documents into the legal deposit is growing in international significance. Unfortunately our legislation on legal deposit does not mention the new information media. At the time of the issuing of the Regulation the libraries were unable to foresee the full extent of

their task regarding these media. Irrespective of whether State-run or national libraries devote themselves to the collection of audio-visual materials, it is an indispensable duty to deposit the new media at least in one place in the country. I numerous socialist and non-socialist countries there already exist libraries and archives which devote themselves to this task. A few major libraries, not lastly also the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig, have already integrated the new media into their sphere of collection.
By the term audio-visual materials we understand those information media as interpreted in the Lexikon des Bibliothekswesens, vol. 1, Leipzig 1974: grammophone records, tapes, transparencies, slide-sound-series, still-picture strips, films, picture plates, TV-cassettes and art prints the contents of which are directly and visually presented and are perceived with the means of writing, directly with the aid of picture and sound.

2.1.3. Official Printed Matter

Whereas in many countries the term "official printed matter" is separately formulated for depositing, the legislation in our country does not make any such distinction. That too is an advantage, as in this way the printed materials, outside the book-trade, are not once again differentiated. The offixial printed matters are thus an integrated part of the publications outside the book-trade.
That simplifies matters a lot and there cannot crop up any lack of clarity. Every person obliged to perform a legal deposit is aware whether or not he belongs to the book-trade.

2.2. Who is Liable to Legal Deposit?

When comparing legal deposit laws with the regulations applying to the German Democratic Republic there exists an important difference as to those who are liable to effect a legal deposit. In most of the world's countries, including all socialist countries, the printer is responsible for depositing. Low givers as well as those entitled to receive are convinced thereby to receive the legal deposit at first hand. In our country the publisher has always been responsible for depositing.
This is certainly no disadvantage. Whether the printer or the publisher is responeible for depositing might also be due to the traditions of the publishing trade and the book-trade in the country concerned. Either system has its advantages and disadvantages for the libraries entitled to receive legal deposits.
In the German Democratic Republic all publishing houses, authorities and institutions, enterprises, political parties, societies, religious bodies, associations and similar institutions as well as persons who have a printed matter in the meaning of the described object of legal deposit published are obliged to effect a legal deposit.
Printeries are liable to effect a legal deposit only when they produce printed matter for customers who are not licensed in the German Democratic Republic.
Neither the Deutsche Bücherei, nor the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, carries out a central distributing function of legal deposit copies, as it is the case in other socialist countries for the book-chambers, State and National libraries.

The publisher shall directly send legal deposit copies to the libraries named in the Regulation on Legal Deposits. That regulation of depositing has no disadvantages at all. All the libraries entitled to receive deposits confirm that they, apaprt from exceptional cases, which may occur anywhere, obtain their copies regularly out of the publishers'

production. In the depositing of publications of the non-book trade there sometimes occur difficulties which are, however, not based on the distribution system of the legal deposit copies. In socialist countries, in which the printer does the depositing, there exist, strangel speaking, the same problems.

2.3. Regulation on Costs for Legal Deposits

Art. 3 of the Regulation on Legal Deposits stipulates for the territory of the German Democratic Republic that the copies for legal deposit shall be delivered, as a matter of principle, to all institutions, which are entitled to receive them, free of charge and postage. This regulation corresponds to the responsibility of society as a whole for the storage and supply of all national printed materials within the socialist society. Not exempt from this regulation are also the particularly expensive special, festival or luxury editions, which are published only in small quantities. Such works, too, are to be deposited without any charge, but, when asked by the publisher, the Ministry of Culture may decide that deliveries are to be effected only to the Deutsche Bücherei, and the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, each receiving one such copy. This makes certain that the two central scientific libraries obtain, free of charge, in the interest of preserving the national cultural assets, all copies according to legal deposit. Any expenses arising in connexion with the legal deposit are regarded as operating costs of the institution which effects the legal deposit.

The absolutely free delivery of all copies to be legally deposited, as practised in the German Democratic Republic, does not take place in the non-socialist countries. Thus, e. g., publishers in the Republic of Austria are entitled to charge half their expenses to the Austrian National Library for printed materials the retail price of which exceeds

200 shillings. In the FRG, too, those who are obliged to legal depositing of particularly expensive goods are entitled to be granted a subsidy. Further examples may be found in most of the other countries.

2.4. Institutions Receiving Legal Deposits

For increasing holdings the legal deposits effected by the publishers and the non-book trade mean the indispensable basis. Thereby influence is also assured for the overall development of the library scheme.
In the German Democratic Republic publishers shall effect legal deposit to the central and regional institutions. While the central institutions obtain the printed materials from the whole of the Republic, only those printed materials are to be dekivered to the regional institutions which are published within their territory. As central libraries operate the Deutsche Bücherei and the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek. With certain restrictions the Ministry of Culture, too, may be named as a central receiver of legal deposits, but only as to their own publications. Central archival tasks with the collection of the legal deposits have also the German Central Archive for official printed materials and cartographic products which are not sold publicly. Finally legal deposits are to be delivered of independent cartographic products to the Ministry of the Interior's main administration for cartographic and measuring services.
In order to ensure, side-by-side with the central institutions, the accounting for and collection of printed materials, the libraries, heading the list of libraries in the regions or counties, have been commissioned to receive legal deposits by talring into consideration the administrative structure of the German Democratic Republic. The territory of our Republic is, for the sake of administration, divided into 14 counties plus Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic.

Thus we have nowadays e. g. for the former Province of Saxony, as administrative areas, the counties of Leipzig, Dresden and Karl-Marx-Stadt. The library system of these three counties is headed by the Saxonian Land-Library of Dresden. This library is to receive legal deposits from the three mentioned Saxoniam districts.
All counties are organized in the same way. The publishing houses located there shall likewise carry out legal deposits to the scientific library stipulated in the Regulation.

The size of the holdings of the central libraries as well as of the libraries operating in a regional basis can only benefit everybody due to corresponding cooperation through the regulation on legal deposits operating in out Republic. This hardly applies to publications of the publishing houses. Yet in the case of publications beyond the scope of the book trade the scientific libraries, which are competent for the counties, are able to devote themselves more intensively to the control of legal deposits. This advantage also benefits the central libraries. Thus e. g. the Deutsche Bücherei obtains from the libraries, which operate in the counties, information on legal depoits received from regional sources. On the other hand the Deutsche Bücherei issues information on its own acquisitions by means of the central cataloguing connected with bibliographic listing.

2.5. Number of Copies for Legal Deposit

All receivers of legal deposits obtain one copy each of the publishers publications as well as of printed materials published outside the book-trade. Exeptions apply only to the Deutsche Bücherei, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Interior. The Deutsche Bücherei is entitled to two copies from the publisher's production for the sake of legal deposit. Another two copies, albeit only of independent cartographic products are to be sent to the main administration

for cartographic and measuring services of the Ministery of the Interior. The Ministry of Culture is entitled to receive the legal deposits of the publishing production which are listed in the licensing document. As to especially expensive printed materials, which are published in small numbers only, the deposit has been restricted to one copy each for the Deutsche Bücherei and the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek respectively.

2.6. New Prints and Get-up

The obligation to deliver applies in the German Democratic Republic to each edition and each amended or non-amended new prints. If a printed material is published in different get-ups, legal deposits shall be effected of the best and most complete edition. In accordance with the planned introduction of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) to the German Democratic Republic, that stipulation will have to be reconsidered. At least the Deutsche Bücherei intends, in order to meet its tasks as an archive library, to collect all the publications which bear an ISBN of its own.

2.7. Time for Deposit and its Control

One cannot visualise any regulation of legal deposit without a compulsory obligation to deliver. The institutions entitled to accept legal deposits have not only the right but also the duty to check on the deposition.
This fulfils, at the same time, an important culture-political task through the State and National libraries: the fastest possible providing of bibliographic data for the national basic bibliographies and thereby the satisfaction the society's needs of information.
The archive libraries of the non-socialist countries, too, are interested in the delivery of legal deposits without any

delay. The fact that those obliged to legal deposit provide bibliographic data for the CIP-entries, is due to satisfy mercantile interests.

Which regulation has then been accepted by the legislation for legal deposit in the German Democratic Republic?

The Regulation for the Legal Deposit has laid down that at the latest within two weeks after completion of the first copies of each edition, legal deposit has to be effected. According to the international experiences that time limit still lies within the time which is customary for signal and advance copies and which should be conceded to every library which is entitled to accept legal deposits. Difficulties therefore do not arise due to the stipulations laid down by the legislator, but on account of inadmissible delays caused by anybody obliged to legal deposit. For this reason the receiver shall carry out a controlling function, even if the duty to check has not been especially formulated by law. The Deutsche Bücherei has been practising this control at present already for publishers' publications.

Should the time-limit be exceeded, the Regulation on Legal Deposits provides a special protection of interests for the libraries entitled to receive legal deposits. Such stipulations are by no means customary in every country. If, e. g., a printed material is not deposited in our country within the stipulated time, those entitled to receive the material are entitled to demand a charge for default which is for the first to the fourth week 1 Mark each, for every further week 5 Marks each. They may in addition obtain, at the expense of the institution obliged to deposit, instead of the non-deposited materials the same kind of copies or, at the expense of the institution obliged to deposit, call for or cause to have produced replacements, such as reproductions or photocopies.

These are certainly rather effective measures which have an effect on the abiding by the Regulation on legal deposit. They exercise also a moral effect on either party. The receivers of legal deposits in our country are endeavouring by

means of a good cooperative relationship particularly in the publishing trade, not to allow at all avoidable difficulties to arise. Our publishers are fully aware of that. They are prepared to correctly meet their legal obligations.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: General Research Libraries

SECTION: National Libraries

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The Role of national libraries in Latin America: The Example of the Biblioteca Nacional of Venezuela

by
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THE ROLE OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN LATIN AMEPICA: THE EXAMPLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VENEZUELA

By

Yola Medina McLeod

Although the establishment of the National Library dates from 1833 and the government did much to develop it during the 19th century, from the time of the dictatorship, it fell into an almost complete decay, from which it began to recover in 1974, when Virginia Betancourt was named its director.

In 1974 the National Library was a dependency of the National Council for Culture (CONAC), which previously was the National Institute for Culture and Fine Arts (INCIBA). It was operated as just another public library of the Caracas Metropolitan area, because there was no budget to allow its carrying out of its essential functions. These were:

1. To serve as a center for the collection, organization and publicizing of materials published in and about Venezuela.
2. To monitor compliance with the Legal Deposit Law.
3. To publish the National Bibliography.
4. To prepare a union catalog of the printed and non-print resources held in the country's libraries. (1)

With these four objectives clearly defined, and aware of the great need to give the library its proper national role, Virginia Betancourt made a strong effort to give the library its own identity, an iniciative which immediately found a response from the National Government. In her first year of incumbency, she formed an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional group of librarians,lawyers,

(1) Venezuela. Ley del Instituto Autónomo Biblioteca Nacional y de Servicios de Bibliotecas. Caracas: Biblioteca Nacional, 1977. p.7.

sociologists, architects, etc, which by joint action obtained firm government support. In 3 years a law was promulgated establishing the National Library as an Autonomous Institute, with competency over the existing institution and also the public libraries of the country at large.

The aforementioned is not meant to minimize the work of those who headed the institution before 1974. It is simply a well-known fact that under the leadership of Virginia Betancourt, the Venezuelan government, for the first time in the nation's history, gave definitive support to the development of library and information services on a national level. The work undertaken was not limited to establishing the economic independence of the library, but also was directed at creating and organizing an infrastructure which would lead to the setting up of a national information system, inspired in no little measure by NATIS. This made Venezuela the first member of UNESCO to start this process which has its legal basis in the decrees and laws cited below:

1. Decree Nº 559, dated November 19, 1974, which created the National Commission for Establishing a National Information System. This Commission presented a report to the President which described the situation of library and information services at that moment, and suggested actions to be taken which would guarantee for the country a National Information System responsive to the people's intellectual needs.
2. Decree Nº 1283, dated November 25, 1975, which determined the creation of the Foundation for the Recovery of Venezuelan Documentary Resources as an instrument for the identification, selection and acquisition of publications from or about Venezuela which were not held in the National Library. This work was carried out mainly at Northwestern University in the United States, which took responsibility for the search

for this material in that country.

3. Decree Nº 1759, dated September 7, 1976, which created the National Commission for the Organization of the National System of Library Services and of Information in Humanities, Science and Technology. Suggestions made to the Venezuelan government by this Commission brought about a revised and extended decree.
4. Law creating the Autonomous Institute of the National Library and Library Services, promulgated July 27, 1977.
5. Legal Deposit Law, which had been promulgated in 1944, was extended to include non print publications on December, 1977.
6. Decree Nº 2531, dated January 3, 1978, modified Decree Nº 1759, mentioned in point 3 above, and created a permanent organization attached to the Central Office for Planning and Coordination of the President of the Republic, called the Coordinating Commission of the National System of Library and Information Services, of Information in Humanities, Sciences and Technology, of Archives, Statistics and Computer Sciences, (SINASBI). This group had the responsibility of serving as a consultative organism of the government for questions of planning, organizing and developing the National System.
7. Decree Nº 2718, dated June 27, 1978, created a central library in each Ministry for the purpose of centralizing in them all the publications edited by the organism.
8. Decree Nº 2719, also dated June 27, 1978, which creates the Audiovisual Archive of Venezuela, responsible for the collection of all non print materials related to the intellectual needs of the Venezuelan people.
9. Decree Nº 188, dated June 27, 1979, through which the National System

of School Library Services was created.

Within this new infrastructure, the Venezuelan government gave the National Library a new status as center for the coordination, orientation and standardi - zation of library services in the country, including university, specialized, public and school libraries.

With the promulgation of the law which made the National Library an Autonomous Institute, there opened a new dimension for the institution permitting it a real juridical.administrative and budgetary independence, all of which obliged it to redefine its functions, establish new courses of action and adapt itself in a progressive, efficient and harmonious way to the expectations imposed by the new law. This legislation also produced a more favorable climate for librarians, who in one way or another were to participate actively in the development of this whole process.

This new day for the profession was signalled implicitly in the date intentionally chosen for the promulgation of the new law, the 27 of July, which in Venezuela is the National Day of the Librarian and Archivist.

Hence we can affirm without fear of error that it was on that 27 of July that the nation came to a full realization of how important library and infor - mation services are to it, especially as a developing country.

The basic provisions of the law we have mentioned emphasize most specially "... the duty of the State to preserve and make accessible to the whole population the print and non-print materials related to the national heritage, as a guaranty of the realization of human rights to culture, education and information in humanities, science and technology, and also to promote throughout the country a full public use of these materials with a view to archieving the participation of all citizens in nation's cultural and social life." (2)

(2) Ibid., 2

From the preceding it is clear that the radius of action of the National Library goes beyond the limits traditionally assigned to institutions of this kind. These functions are stated in the following articles:

" 8) To formulate and carry out the policy of the National System of Library Services within the national plans for economic, social and cultural development.

9) To elaborate and apply technical standards and procedures relating to the operation of different types of libraries which make up the National System of Library Services, and oversee their implementation.

10) To participate actively in the formation, and upgrading of the human resources necessary for the National System...

12) To establish a National System of Public Libraries, through formal agreements with institutions of the public and private sectors.

13) To give technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in the creation of a System of Library Services in educational establishments.

14) To collaborate with the university libraries in the creation and implementation of mechanisms of standardization and coordination.

15) To evaluate periodically the quality of services in the National System of Library Services operating in the country, correcting their deficiencies and contributing to their modernization." (3)

The major changes which have occurred from 1974 to the present are:

1. The automation of technical services and the development of a data base which increasingly serves national information needs.
2. The automation of the National Bibliography in preparation for a cumulative edition.

(3) Ibid., 16.

3. The centralization of acquisition and cataloging for the National Library and the public libraries.
4. The translation and adoption of international bibliographic standards, for example ISBD, Anglo-American Cataloging Rules 2a ed., MARCAL, etc.
5. The training of professional librarians of many institutions in the use of international standards and automated systems.
6. The formation of a National System of Public Libraries in collaboration with the state governments which share costs of personnel and materials.
7. Consultancy in and coordination of standards for special libraries of the country.
8. Inclusion, for the first time, of a section on Library and Information Services in the sixth five-year National Plan.
9. Creation of a National Center for Audiovisual Materials produced in and about the country.
10. The establishment of a National Center for the Preservation and Care of Documents.
11. The reorganization of international exchange programs, including formal agreements to exchange materials and technical assistance with other countrys.

In conclusion it can be said that the National Library is now performing the traditional functions of institutions of its kind, in addition to several innovative programs related especially to serving the information needs of the nation's population at all levels. There are several projects underway to develop special services for different particular needs of the government, and other groups such as a documentation service for the Venezuelan Congress, special collections for the handicapped, and audiovisual centers in the Public Library System.

Finally, the National Executive has begun construction of building adequate

to house the programs initiated, and permit development of a collection of 5 million volumes.

This edifice should be finished for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Venezuela greatest son, Simón Bolívar, which occurs on the 24 of July, 1983. This will be another great date in the history of libraries and librarianship in Venezuela.

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Caracas, June 12, 1981.

YMM/kdea.

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DIVISION: General Research Libraries
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102/NAT/3E

Role of the State Lenin Library of the USSR in the Realization of UAP Programme in the USSR

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ROLE OF THE STATE LENIN LIBRARY OF THE USSR IN THE REALIZATION OF THE UAP PROGRAMME IN THE USSR.

The activity of the State Lenin Library (SLL), as of any national library, is multi-functional. The main function and principal trend of activity is identified with the gathering, storage, disclosure and use of the most comprehensive collection of books and other information carriers in the country with the aim of ensuring universal availability of publications. This problem is of a complex nature and exceeds the limits of librarianship proper. In this case we are concerned with library factors ensuring the universal availability of publications.

I. Universal availability of Soviet libraries.

The road of over six decades, that Soviet libraries have travelled in conditions of a socialist state, is an impressive confirmation of the effectualness in our country of the main principle adopted by IFLA that: "society must provide all people with the opportunity to use the blessings of reading". The universal availability of publications represents one of the main principles of organization of librarianship in the USSR.

In the USSR librarianship represents a uniform integral State system, which ensures the availability of books for the entire population throughout the whole territory of the country. The concept "librarianship" has found an essentially new interpretation in Soviet library science. We perceive it not as a formal aggregate of libraries, which merely serve their users, but as a social institution, which organizes book circulation on a country-wide basis, oriented towards the satisfaction of needs of the

entire population.

The transformation of libraries into public institutions make up the scientific basis of V.I.Lenin's principal concept of State-organized librarianship, the planned building up of a uniform library system, the centralized guidance of librarianship, the encouragement of wide sections of the population to take up the popularization of libraries and the primary importance of providing libraries with books on a centralized basis. Already in his article entitled "What should be done for public education" (1913), V.I.Lenin emphasised "the necessity of making the enormous library collections available not only to the work-shop of scholars, i.e. professors and other specialists, but to all people in general" (Complete Works, Ed.5., vol. 23, p. 348). After the Great October Socialist Revolution, which opened all doors for the people, V.I.Lenin again stressed the need of turning libraries into free public institutions, which would provide the population with books.

N.K.Krupskaya also pointed out that in the land of Soviets librarianship should be devised in such a way that libraries of different categories would efficiently provide all people with the books they need and satisfy the ever growing demand of the population in knowledge and broaden their horizon according to V.I.Lenin's behests[1].

By 1981, the number of libraries in the USSR has reached 350 thousand: 132 thous. public libraries including more than 106 thous. libraries under the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministry of Culture

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1) Krupskaya N.K. "Zadachi bibliotechnoy raboty".- In: Krupskaya N.K. "O bibliotechnom dele. C . M., 1957, p.307.

(89 thousand of these libraries are located in rural districts), 70 thous. specialized, scientific and technical libraries; over 130 thous. school libraries.

In the years of Soviet power an impressive amount of positive solutions of problems of general availability of libraries has accumulated and this makes it possible to draw essential conclusions on the practical way of turning libraries into truly public institutions. In this context, one of the main conclusions is that the practical realization of the general availability of libraries is possible only in those conditions when the State itself appears as the direct organizer of librarianship and provides the necessary material and technical resources. Yet another conclusion has it that the overall availability of library books can be accomplished through the free use of libraries and even distribution of libraries within the country, or, in other words, through, the provision of stationary and mobile forms of library service and of the opportunity for every citizen to use this service.

The problem of distribution of libraries throughout the land is being solved in accordance with the specific features of our country. The great diversity of settlements, differing in the number of people, who live in them, calls for different forms of library service, from the creation of library networks in large cities to the organization of bibliobuses and book-peddling services with the aim of bringing the book to readers living in remote and small settlements.

The most vital form of providing the population with books is the servicing of people at their place of residence, i.e. the territorial principle of distribution of libraries.

2. Priority development of the library network in the national districts as a measure of levelling the cultural development of all peoples of the country. The share of public libraries of the Union republics (excluding the RSFSR) in the general number of libraries of this type in the early twenties made up only 30%, today this share has risen to 55%.

In the period from 1940 to 1980 the pace of growth of the public library network in the Tajik SSR, the Kazakh SSR and the Turkmen SSR was higher than in the RSFSR respectively 4; 2,4 and two times.

The Soviet Union is a multi-national state and representatives of over 120 nations and nationalities live and work here. In library activity, as in activities in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, the national features of peoples, populating the country, are taken into account as far as possible. The practical realization of the national aspect of development of librarianship is, in the long run, identified with the creation of equal and broad opportunities for using books for all peoples of the Soviet Union without exception.

The national features of librarianship are evident in the acquisition policies of libraries. The diligent selection of national literature, which reflects the contribution of each nation into the development of economics, culture and science of the country, represents the most important task of libraries.

One significant achievement in the solution of the problem of universal availability of publications is the creation of large state, republican libraries with a universal range of acquisition, which function under the scientific and methodological guidance

The variety of natural, social, economic and demographic conditions in the USSR calls for a precise and differentiated approach to the problem of library distribution. This provision has been stressed in a number of documents, including the "Model provisions concerning the organization of a uniform network of public libraries" (1977) in which the conditions of cities and villages, the density of the population, the number of storeys of houses and the distances between libraries are taken into account.

Apart from the territorial principle, the principle of setting up libraries at the place of work of users, i.e. at industrial plants, research institutes, high educational institutions, etc., is widely spread. The existence of two apptoaches to the distribution of libraries makes it possible to draw libraries nearer to the population and create conditions for a differentiated library service and does not mean the creation of two library systems operating isolationably.

The incessant increase of the number of libraries of different types and categories (public, research, special, children's libraries, etc.) has created the basis for the all-round satisfaction of demands of users pertaining to different groups of the population and for the organization of differentiated library services for all sections of working-people. Three main tendencies, characteristic of the development of the library system in the USSR, should be singled out.

1. Priority development of the network of public libraries with the aim of providing the entire population with books.

Thus the share of public libraries in the overall number of libraries was 34% in 1940, but by 1960 it reached 37%.

2. Priority development of the library network in the national districts as a measure of levelling the cultural development of all peoples of the country. The share of public libraries of the Union republics (excluding the RSFSR) in the general number of libraries of this type in the early twenties made up only 30%, today this share has risen to 55%.

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One significant achievement in the solution of the problem of universal availability of publications is the creation of large state, republican libraries with a universal range of acquisition, which function under the scientific and methodological guidance

of the State Lenin Library. In their capacity of central libraries, they receive deposit copies of national literature and act as scientific, information, bibliographical and methodological centres of the Union republics.

3. Priority development of the public library network in rural districts as one of the means of removing differences in the cultural life of the city and village. The share of village libraries in the general number of public libraries in 1922 made up 62%% in 1980 this figure rose to 70%.

In conditions of overall literacy (the main social factor of effeqtualness of the UAP) and incessant rising of the educational level of the population of the USSR, the SLL studies reading interests of different social groups, discloses and promotes the elimination of obstacles in the sphere of spreading reading and through its research and methodological activities contributes to the improvement of library services. The SLL pays special attention to the scientifically grounded development of the library system, proportional distribution of libraries and consolidation of their cooperation.

Under the scientific and methodological guidance of the SLL, uniform plans of library service are worked out in the Union and Autonomous republics and regions of the country. They are based on the following methodological principles. Not a single plan of a library or any departmental specialized library network can be recognized as an optimal one if it has been mapped out without due regard for a similar document, which characterizes the development of resources of the particular region. In its turn, the library programme of a region cannot be rational if it is not coordinated with the activities of libraries of different departments located

in the region.

The main objective of uniform territorial library plans (as opposed to departmental plans) is the optimal complex development of library resources, regardless of the departmental subordination of libraries, in different parts of the country. The characteristic feature of these plans is, first of all, the planning of UAP and the satisfaction of demands of the entire population of the country in books and reading. The interdepartmental complex approach creates a realistic basis for the substantiation of the necessary library resources for every department, objective assessment of the effectiveness of their use, the activization of interdisciplinary and interdepartamental library units. That is why the main content of the complex territorial plan comes down to the development and substantiation of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental library problems of general district significance, which cannot be solved by particular interdepartmental and specialized library systems. To these aspects pertain the following: the planning of an optimal structure of library resources of each region and the development of interdepartamental relations, in other words the cooperation of libraries along the main lines of their activity, the ensuring of the proportionality of library resources and the raising of the level of library services.

It is generally known that regional library planning would more successfully solve its problems if it could lean upon full-fledged complex plan studies of library resources.

At present the SLL has, according to a uniform programme, developed regional studies on a country-wide scale with the aim of disclosing regional differences and peculiarities in the library

servicing of the population in conditions of regulated pace and proportions of development of library resources in different regions of the country. It is envisaged that in 1981-1985 priority development of library resources will be accomplished in the republics of Middle Asia, the North, and new regions of economic development of Siberia and the Far East.

2. Universal availability of library books.

One of the main factors of support of UAP is the existence in every region of the country of sufficiently full library collections. This achievement is the result of the creation in the USSR of the system of State centralized provision of libraries with books. Practice shows its great advantages as the system guarantees the following: 1) organized and regulated receipt of a certain part of printed matter issued in the country, by libraries; 2) correct selection of publications with the aim of incessant improvement of the composition of library holdings; 3) regular and timely replenishment of collections. A network of library collectors, special book-selling agencies, which provide libraries with books on a planned basis and offer them bibliographical and methodological assistance in the acquisition of literature, has been created in the USSR.

The distribution of the so-called deposit copies has become one of the main sources of centralized book provision of large research libraries, that are notable for their comprehensive hol-i dings in their particular subject fields. Within this context the concept "deposit copies" means a certain number of copies from the run of each title. For example, the SLL receives three deposit copies of printed matter in all the languages of the peoples of the USSR.

The Soviet system of legal deposit is distinguished by the following characteristic features: 1) a relatively large number of deposit copies; 2) wide variety of their forms (free, payed, departmental, local, etc); 3) even distribution of deposit copies in terms of geography, which has made it possible to create large libraries, capable of coping with the demands of users of all categories on the local level, not only in capital cities, but in regional centres too.

Of course, centralized provision of libraries with literature on the basis of contracts with library collectors does not to any extent rule out the diligent selection of literature by the library itself in accordance with the range of subjects it covers and specific users' demands.

In connection with the growth of interest in reading, the heightened desire of a certain part of the population to build up their own private collections, the priority provision of public libraries with the most valuable books in the field of science and fiction, ensures their availability to all working-people. With this purpose annually (beginning with the seventies) a set of books called the "Library Series" (LS) is published. The "LS" is one of the new forms of centralized book provision.

The publication and delivery of books of this series is accopplished through the joint efforts of the State Committee for Publishing, the USSR Ministry of Culture and the SLL. In the course of preparation of the "LS" the Library is responsible for the main aspect of this activity: the selection of books intended for public libraries. With this aim the SLL, with the help of libraries, i.e.

republican methodological centres, selects books that are much in demand and necessary for the solution of problems with which libraries are faced and compiles lists of books that need to be reprinted within the "LS" framework.

Besides this, the SLL maintains permanent business contacts with 60 editorial boards of central publishing houses in order to ensure the inclusion of the most current and interesting books into the "LS", which are still, for different reasons, unknown to wide circles of readers.

The "Library Series" is being published since 1973/1974 and hitherto libraries have received over 500 titles of books with runs of more than 500 mill.copies.

The State Lenin Library belongs to the few national libraries of the world, which acquire foreign publications in a wide range of su subjects.

The STI system and the system of translation of the most prominent foreign books, dealing with science and works of fiction ensure access to foreign publications of a wide circle of Soviet readers, including those, who do not know foreign languages. In this connection we want to mention the unique Soviet monthly Journal "Inostrannaya literatura" ("Foreign literature"), that has a circulation of 550 thous. copies and scores of series of abstracts journals. The translation of foreign publications into Russian and languages of the peoples of the USSR makes it possible to satisfy a wide circle of demands of Soviet readers.

Original foreign literature is demanded by fewer, but more qualified readers, i.e. by those who need the holdings of the national library.

The SLL traditionally collects foregn publications, which make up about one third of its collection of 30 mill.volumes. Foreign books, beginning with incunabula, gathered in previous years make up the basis of this collection and determine the place of the Library as of the largest depository of foreign publications in the country.

Annually the SLL acquires up to 65 thousand foreign books (over 10% of the world book output), 10 thous. foreign journals, 500 foreign newspapers and over 20.500 copies of serials. Taking into account the efficient STI system, which has formed in the USSR and the existence of large specialized libraries, the SLL does not aim to gather all foreign literature and limits itself to the acquisition of the most important works in terms of information and science and prominent works of fiction. Special attention is focused on the acquisition of bibliographical and reference works, official publications and works reflecting achievements in different science and disciplines, works of eminent scientists, statesmen, writers and workers in the cultural field and progressive publications.

The qualified selection of publications makes it possible to meet the active demand for foreign literature of readers of the SLL.

An important factor ensuring the fullness and availability of library holdings is the State system of depository storage of library collections.

With the accelerated growth of printed output and other documentsp which are taken in by the libraries depository storage of library holdings has become an important matter.

Demands for literature published in past years diminishes and from current printed matter it turns into literature that is rarely used. Its existence in collections of all libraries leads to the decrease of the circulation of literature, hinders work with current publications and at times leads to large and unjustified expenses connected with the building of additional repositories.

In 1975 the "Decree on the organization of depository storage of book collections of libraries of the country" was approved. One of the clauses reads as follows: "Depository storage of passively used literature, which has, nevertheless, not lost its scientific or cultural value, will promote more rational organization, storage and use of library collections and even distribution among the main economic and geographic regions of the country"[2].

The State system of depository storage of library collections has been created on the basis of the following points: 1) a depository library is an operating library and not a store-house for unused literature; 2) the network of depository libraries has been created on the basis of existing large research libraries; 3) in the USSR the depository library is a centre and a component of the uniform system of library and bibliographic service of science and production on the given territory.

"The duties of libraries and STI bodies, which perform the function of depositories include:

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[2] Polozheniye ob organizatsii depozitarnogo khraneniya knizhnykh fondov bibliotek strany.- In: Rukovodiashchii materialy po bibliotechnomu delu. Moscow, Kniga, 1975, p.95.

- permanent storage of literature and documentation in one or two copies; efficient satisfaction of users' demands and of demands coming in from other libraries through the delivery of original sources or thier copies;

- receipt of rarely used literature and documentation, lacking in the collections of depositories, from libraries and STI agencies".[3]

The system of depository storage is built on the territorial and disciplinary principles. The successful functioning of the system promoted the development of interdepartmental interaction of depository libraries.

The introduction of the depository system guarantees the availability of all literature existing in the country, regardless of its location.

Boasting of the fullest collection of domestic and foreign literature of a universal nature the SLL plays the role of an All-Union depository, the final unit of the State system of depository storage of collections of research libraries. Its tasks include the permanent preservation of its collections in coordination with other All-Union and republican depository libraries, the servicing, on their basis, of readers and borrowers, receipt of information on publications sent for depository storage by republican and interregional depository libraries, the checking up of this information, the inclusion of delivered items into its collection. The All-Union depository also gives information on publications rejected by the SLL to all depository libraries of the network, renders methodological assistance to all libra-

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[3] Ibidem, p.95

ries of country in the effective operation of the depository system.

The broad variety of forms of bibliographic aids published by the SLL promotes the reaching of the objectives of UAP. These aids include: union catalogues, national repertories, recommendatory and scientific, retrospective and current, universal and special, subject, regional and other kinds of bibliographies. These bibliographic aids are notable for the broadness of their thematic, chronological and language boundaries. These aids are available to all and are widely printed in the press. The recommendatory bibliographic indexes help the readers in their search for litarature they need in public libraries.

Scientific auxiliary lists and union catalogues speed up the search for special literature for highly qualified readers.

The need of the library's users in the availability of publications is largely satisfied by the collection of reference and bibliographic publications of the SLL. which helps readers to receive information on world book output.

As of January 1, 1981 this collection contained 240 thous. items. It covers reference and bibliographic works from the early 19th century to the present day, that supply information on printed matter in nearly all languages of the world. In connection with the important role of information on publications in attaining their universal availability the continuity of the two main professional programmes of IFLA deserve special mention: the UBC and UAP.

These programmes have one final goal - the ensuring of the broadest availability of publications.

In the realization of ideas and principles of UBC and UAP, bibliography is of primary importance, the same is true of its universal availability for, probably, it is only through this can we come to the universal availability of publications. The continuity of the socially useful objectives of UBC serves the aim of creating a basis for the functioning of UAP. UBC is the source of realization of the UAP programme. The UBC programme guarantees the full coverage of the world repertory of publications and information on information resources. UBC supports the general orienting functions in the solution problems of UAP. It supplies such information as where, when, in what languages and in what subject field, the publication was issued.

The UAP is a global programme intended to satisfy the needs of society as a whole without differentiated reckoning with the needs of particular specialists. In practice, as a rule, it is not the UAP in itself that evokes interest. The need for universal availability interblends with concrete tasks or goals. In this connection emerges the problem of correlation of the national bibliography, which is the basis of UBC and UAP, with particular forms of special bibliograpgy, which is examined in application to particular areas of activity. The support of universal availability in concrete areas of scientific and practical activity is the task of the special bibliography in the UAP programme. The functions of the special bibliography include the identifying function with respect to the national bibliography, it being more general in character; the orientation and searchs functions, the scientific auxiliary function with respect to the development of different branches of science and the information function, when we speak of the totality of publications in the world repertory.

In connection with the development of the UAP programme it is necessary to do the following:

1) make concrete the correlations of UBC and UAP, which are closely linked to one another and are meant to supplement one another;

2) define the correlations of the national bibliography, as of the general initial basis, with special bibliographies;

3) specify the functions of special bibliographies in the UAP programme;

4) clarify the structure of the special bibliography, that is unify the main types on the international level. Prepare the international standard "Bibliography: Types".

3. System of methods of library service of the population

An important condition for the practical realization of the UAP programme is the use of the complex of active and flexible methods of servicing the population and the creation of maximum facilities and conveniencies for readers.

Library service has made it possible for every citizen of the USSR to work in the reading hall of the library, borrow books for home reading, borrow books from other libraries through the inter-library loan or make use of the loan by correspondence and use mobile libraries. The active and regular drawing in of the population into the habit of using library books, the use of various methods of disclosing book collections, the giving of everyday aid to readers in the selection of the books they need are means of turning the library into an available institution.

Experience shows that the extent to which people are drawn to

use the library and the turning the libraries into truly available institutions depends on how wll the library is technically equipped, how quickly the readers' demands are satisfied and how attentive is the librarian to these demands and on how the reference service is organized.

The system of the readers' service of the SLL is directed towards the fullest use of its resources as of the largest universal research library. The most important characteristic of the activity of the State Lenin Library and the main feature in the field of library service is the practically unlimited possibilities of satisfying an enormous amount of different and multiplane demands of its readers and borrowers.

Of how intensively the resources of the SLL are used speak the following quantitative indicators: daily from 7 to 8 thousand readers work in the Library; the day's circulation of books runs to about 40 thous. volumes; every year readers receive answers to over 120 thous. queries and consultations are also given. The SLL has 22 reading halls (over 2,5 thousand seats), which are organized in keeping with two main principles: by large complexes of sciences (technology, natural sciences and the humanities) and by types of documents (newspapers, dissertations, manuscripts, maps, printed music). The dynamic formation of the readership consists of the gradual increase in its structure of the portion of readers engaged in scientific research. In the future this orientation will be retained. Nevertheless, priority attention given to the satisfaction of demands connected with scientific activity of complex and interdisciplinary character does not mean that it limits the opportunities other groups of readers to use the library. This is arrived at owing to the precise

coordination and cooperation with other large research libraries of Moscow in the service of readers. There are about 4 thous. such libraries, twenty of which possess over I mill. items of storage.

The improvement of the quality of readers' service in the SLL is also connected with the broader and more operative disclosure of its unique collections.

The most effective form of service, particularly in large universal libraries, is the organization of a special hall - the display of current acquisitions. Here readers can familiarize themselves with new books and journals, concerned with different disciplines, including relative ones, they can, at the same time, become acquainted with political literature and fiction. The exhibits in this hall, which is universal in character, are changed weekly. The acquainting of readers on an operative and complex level with new journals in all branches of knowledge is the responsibility of the hall of current periodicals.

The improvement of the quality of readers' service in the SLL was also attained owing to the centralization of the control and technological services. This makes it possible to put under strict control such things as timeliness of satisfying readers' demands and the way of the book,beginning with the moment it reaches the State Lenin Library.

To factors stimulating and supporting the UAP belongs the users' education and SLL does much in instructing information users onlibrary and bibliographical orientation. This activity is conducted on a regular basis with the utilization of an entire complex of effective forms and methods of communication

of knowledge in the field of information, librarianship and bibliography. In this work, connected with the raising of bibliographical culture of its readers, the Library makes wide use both of visual and oral forms of propaganda of bibliothecal and bibliographic knowledge. The formez method includes topical displays of bibliographical publications (current and retrospective), displays of new bibliographical aids, guide=books, posters, open access to the reference system, etc. The latter method covers individual and group instruction and consultations, bibliographical seminars, lectures, surveys of bibliographical publications intended for specialists, working in different branches of science, etc. Forms, which combine oral and visual propaganda of bibliothecal/bibliographic knowledge, such as excursions to the reference department, bibliographic surveys, lectures and seminars at which various visual aids are used are also popular the system of propaganda of bibliothecal and bibliographical knowledge in the SLL is actively oriented towards the solution of the problem of universal availability of publications.

4. Interlibrary loan

Problems of interlibrary loan (national and internationali, as one of the main channels of support of access to library collections of national and foreign readers, holds a prominent place in the UAP programme.

We shall now briefly dwell on the main principles of organization of interlibrary loan (ILi and international interlibrary loan (IIL) from the viewpoint of the UAP programme.

The principles of organization and development of IL and IIL were determined by V.I.Lenin. Already in November I917, V.I.Lenin wrote that(I) the Public library (the former Imperial

Library) should without delay begin to exchange books not only with all social and formal libraries of Petrograd and its province, but with libraries in other countries (Finland, Sweden, etc.), too. 2) The transportation of books from one library to another should be declared to be free of charge.[4]

This letter contained the main guide-lines for the development of IL, which our country follows to this day:

- availability of collections of the largest libraries of the country;
- obligatory participation of all libraries in this activity;
- establishment of relations with foreign libraries;
- free issue of publications.

The most characteristic features of development of the IL system in the USSR are the following:

continual and active increase in the number of libraries, which participate in IL activities and growth of the circulation of books; the increase in the number of borrowers by means of drawing small special and public libraries into the IL system; the general centralization of IL, first within the boundaries of particular regions, special library systems and later on a national scale.

The organization of the work of the national IL system is determined by the "Degree on the uniform State system of interlibrary loan in the USSR".[5] The approval of this document made it possible to organize an essentially new centralized All-Union IL System. The structure of the system was defined, a national centre and All-Union specialized and regional IL centres were singled

4. Lenin V.I. Complete works. 5th. ed. v.35, p.132.
5. Organizatsiya raboty bibliotek po mezhbibliotechnomu abonementu. Prakticheskoye posobiye. M.: Книга, 1980, pp.70-75.

out and their functions and content of work fixed.

The structure of the IL system is based on the principle of hierarchical centralization, firs within the boundaries of specialized and regional systems and later on a country=wide basis.

The structure of the IL was created with due regard for the vastness of the territory of the USSR and is in keeping with the administrative and territorial division of the country, the already formed network and typology of libraries, the size and content of the book collections of a district, city, region, Autonomous or Union republic.

The State Lenin Library is the State coorination centre for IL. The decision to create a national IL system in the USSR with the national library at the head is in accordance with principal points of the UAP programme. Nevertheless, taking into account all those peculiarities of which we spoke earlier, we interpet and realize the principle of centralization of IL somewhat differently and more b..o..lly, hence the functions of the centres. In the conventional sense the main function of an IL centre is the receipt and satisfaction of the entire flow of demands and the readdressing of a part of the demands to other libraries of the country.

I.. the USSR the funcions of these centres are determined according to their place in the general structure of the IL System. They have the following major functions: coordination of IL activities of libraries of the region (universal centres) or of a specialized system (specialized centres), methodological guidance and assistance to libraries; satisfaction of borrowers' demands through the collections of their library of the sending of these demands to other libraries; bibliographical checking of demands; information on the collections of the libraries of the region or specialized system.

Regional IL coordination centres are usually the largest libraries in a particular region, which possess either universal or specialized collections, with a good reference system, qualified personnel and reprographic equipment, in other words libraries that possess a certain base, which enables them to perform the functions of a centre.

Soviet libraries endeavour to meet requens as fully as possible. They use different forms of copying if the original copy cannot be sent (for example, the SLL annually copies 25 mill. pages for readers); put the borrower on the waiting list if the publication he wants has already been lent to another reader or borrower; send the demand to foreign libraries when the requested item is lacking in libraries of the country.

In accordance with the Decree on IL, materials of less than 10 pages, are, as a rule copied and sent to the borrower free of charge and without the need of returning the item. Libraries of the USSR do not come into collision with the problem of copyright and development of reprography because the Soviet law does not hamper the reproduction of publications from library collections with the aim of satisfying readers' demands.

The wide availability of publications, held in Soviet libraries is also ensured by the fact that borrowers receive books through the IL free of charge. All expenses are met by the libraries, the majority of which are financed by the State.

The IL system is sypplemented by the IIL System, the organization and order of which is regulated by the "Decree on the international interlibrary loan of libraries of the Soviet Union".[6]

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6. Organizatsiya raboty bibliotek po mezhbibliotechnomu abonementu. Prakt. posobiye / Gos. b-ka SSSR im. V.I.Lenina; M.: Kniga, 1980, p.76-78.

The State Lenin Library is also the coordinating centre for the international interlibrary loan. It represents the interests of Soviet libraries in questions connected with IIL in international organizations; coordinates the work of libraries of the country in the satisfaction of demands; renders methodological aid to Soviet libraries; annually prepares Surveys on IIL in the country.

43 libraries, IIL centres, receive the complete or selected set of deposit copies of domestic publications; they have a developed reprographic base and communication facilities. The rest of the libraries can order and receive publications through IIL centres.

In the USSR both the IL and IIL develop at a fast rate. Thus, the number of libraries, belonging to the USSR Ministry of Culture alone, which receive publications through the IL, has in the last decade increased 2.5 times; the circulation has gone up from I.5 mill. to 4 mill. publications.

Circulation in IIL has in the same period grown from I5 thous. to 37 thous. copies. 662 foreign libraries in 43 countries of the world receive publications through the IIL. Cooperation along IIL lines develops most extensively between the USSR and libraries of other socialist countries.

Taking into account the formed practice of cooperation between libraries of socialist countries, international tendencies of development of IIL and some ideas about the further improvement of the mutual use of IIL collections, a number of concrete decisions on the development of the problem concerned with the creation of a uniform system of IIL for the socialist countries were made at the III meeting of specialists in the field of union cataloques and interlibrary loan (Berlin, October I980).

The establishment of such a system will contribute to the further development and improvement of IIL and in this way expand the possibilities and raise the reliability of the availability of publications, held in library collections of the socialist countries.

Conclusion

One can judge the conditiors which have been created in our country for the fullest possible satisfaction of intellectual demands of the working people by the indexes of book provision of the people, that is by the number of library books per capita or one reader.

As far back as I950 the average number of books and journals per one reader in the public libraries under the juridiction of the USSR Ministry of Culture was 5.9, but by I980 this figure rose to I3.

The average number of books, journals and pamphlets falling to the lot of one inhabitant using the collections of public libraries by I980 was 7 volumes in the cities and even more in the rural districts.

The practical realization of the principle of availability is, in the long run,measured by such factors as to what extent the book has beenput in rench of the people and to what extent have the people been drawn into regular reading and use of libraries. Broad availability of library books is illustrated by the dynamic growth of the number of public-library mers: in I960-70 mill. peonle, in I975 approximate by I20 mill, in I980 - I40 million people representing all groups of the population throughout th entire territory of our country. We would remind you that in I930 only I2 million people used public libraries.

In the period from I960 to I980 the circulation of public libraries increased 2.I times, reaching 2920 mill. copies in I980.

No other country in the world can show such progress in the use of library collections. Today the USSR is paced with the practical task of attracting the entire population of the country to the use of the library.